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SHANA OH YOSHITSUNE

by SAWADA Hirofumi /沢田 ひろふみ

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女子
女子
義経（童名牛若丸）
円成（童名こ若丸）
全成（童名今若丸）
源義朝
範頼
希義
義門
頼朝
朝長
義平

遮那王 義経

MONTHLY SHONEN MAGAZINE COMICS

遮那王 義経

SAWADA HIROFUMI

沢田ひろふみ

10

KCGM934
MONTHLY SHONEN MAGAZINE COMICS

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沢田ひろふみ

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夜毎、京は五条で侍を襲う悪僧・武蔵坊弁慶。その正体は、かつて漂太と生涯の友情を誓った鬼若であった。漂太は弁慶の悪行を止められるか!? いざ決戦、五条大橋!!

MONTHLY SHONEN MAGAZINE COMICS

沢田ひろふみ作品

遮那王 — 義経 — 1～12

山賊王 1～6

以下続刊

2003年12月

遮那王 義経

沢田ひろふみ

The Story so Far:

Ushiwaka passed away! He left his dying wish to defeat the Taira with Hyouta and moved on peacefully. Hyouta decided he would not simply be a substitute anymore, but live as Ushiwaka himself.

After returning to Kurama, the temple's security became increasingly strict, and Hyouta became confused due to the lack of a plan to defeat the Taira. Not long after, a merchant named Kaneuri Kichiji approached Hyouta, bearing a request from Ushiwaka's stepfather Fujiwara Naganari to bring Hyouta to Hiraizumi in Oshu.

The Story So Far, continued:

The first obstacle on the trip to Oshu was leaving Kurama Temple. Although the surveillance was very strict, eventually Hyouta's determination won out and he was allowed to leave. Hyouta returned to the Naganari Residence in Kyoto and started preparations for his trip to Oshu, where he heard rumors of the strange monk soldier, Mushashibo Benkei, appearing on the Gojou Bridge. For some reason, Hyouta is reminded of a childhood friend...

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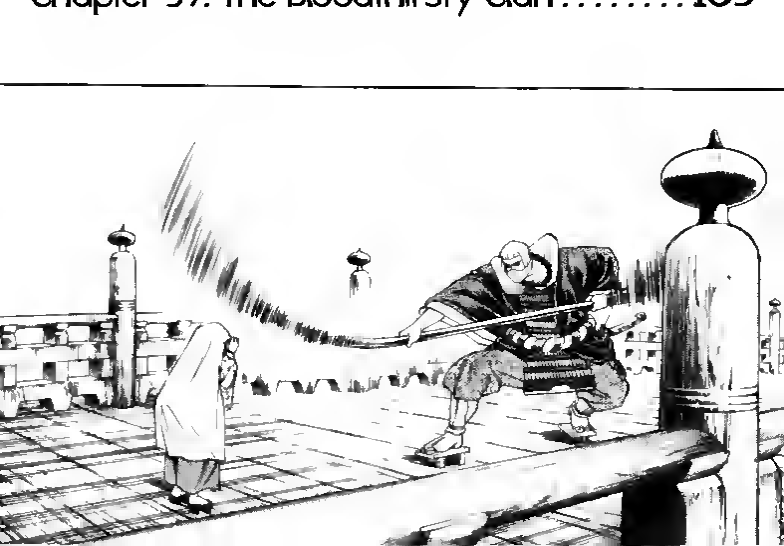
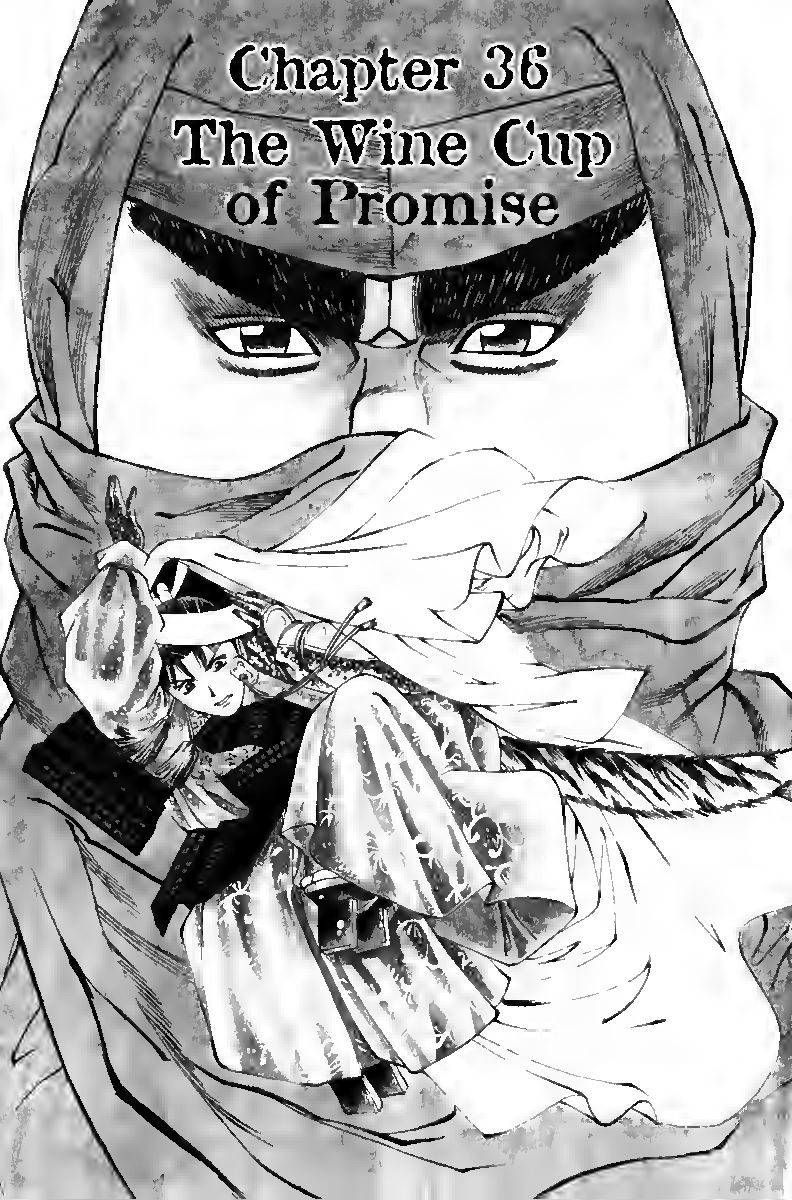
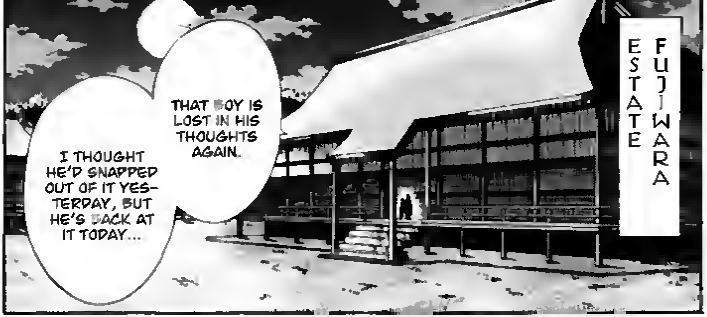
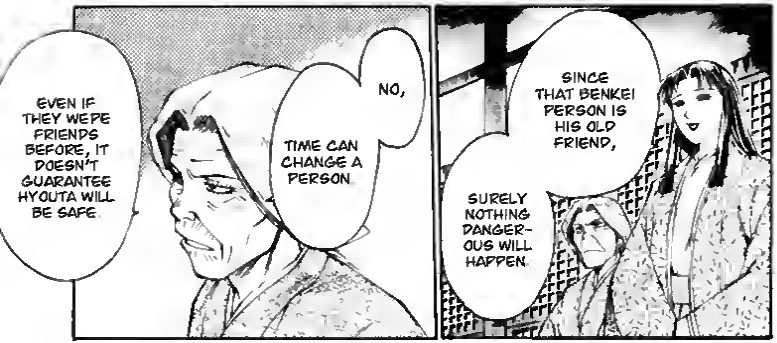
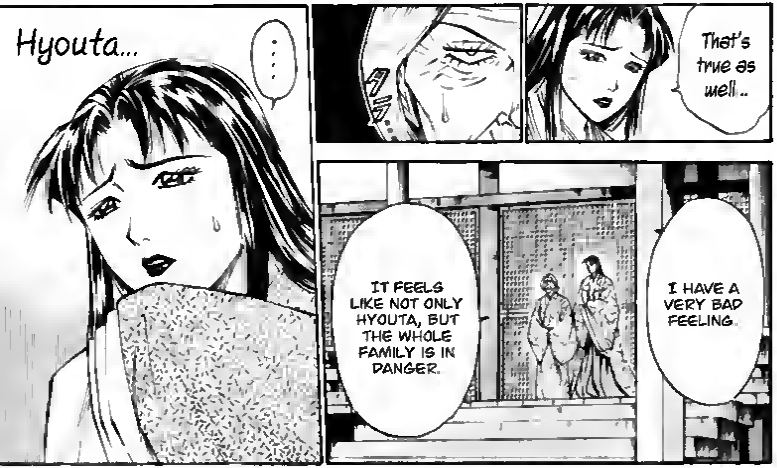
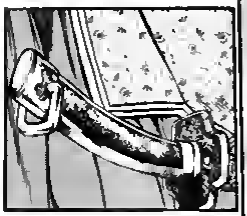


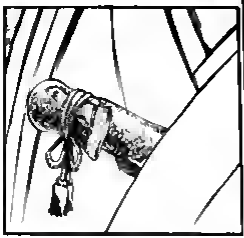

Chapter 36
The Wine Cup
of Promise


ESTATE FUJIWARA
THAT BOY IS LOST IN HIS THOUGHTS AGAIN.
I THOUGHT HE'D SNAPPED OUT OF IT YESTERDAY, BUT HE'S BACK AT IT TODAY...


NO,
TIME CAN CHANGE A PERSON.
EVEN IF THEY WERE FRIENDS BEFORE, IT DOESN'T GUARANTEE HYOUTA WILL BE SAFE.
SINCE THAT BENKEI PERSON IS HIS OLD FRIEND,
SURELY NOTHING DANGEROUS WILL HAPPEN.


Hyouta...
...
ﾌﾗ
That's true as well...
IT FEELS LIKE NOT ONLY HYOUTA, BUT THE WHOLE FAMILY IS IN DANGER.
I HAVE A VERY BAD FEELING.





Oniwaka...

ONIWAKA, YOU WON'T RESIST ITS PURE SONG!
I'LL USE THE SONG I PLAYED BEFORE ON USHIWAKA'S FLUTE
STRANGE, WHERE IS HE?
DIDN'T HE NOTICE ME?
THEN I WILL FORCE HIM TO NOTICE ME!

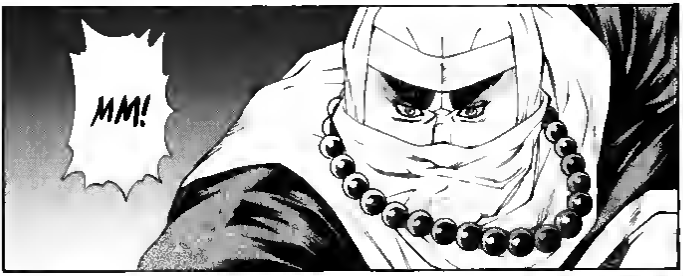
PHWAAAAAAAA
WHOOOOOOO
バサバサ
FWEEEEEEEE
Five years ago.
Eh.? I know I practiced at least once

FINALLY!
ONIWAKA!!
WOMAN! WHY DID YOU RETURN TODAY?
PUT DOWN YOUR SWORD AND LEAVE!
TO SEE YOU.
THIS YOUNG LADY IS HERE...

DO YOU WANT TO BE HURT?
NO!
THINK YOU CAN HURT ME...
THAT IS, IF YOU REALLY...
WHAT?

ああ…
ドドド…
ハァ!

SHOOF


MM!

IT'S POSSIBLE TO AVOID IF ONE WISHES TO DODGE.
INSTEAD OF THE BLADE, YOU USED THE HILT,
AND YOU AIMED FOR THE OUTSIDE OF THE SHOULDER.

*OUR BEST GUESS IS HYOUTA'S ANALYSIS OF THE WEAPON AND ATTACK MUST HAVE GIVEN HIM AWAY.

!!
ハッ

I'M USED TO AVOIDING THE WEAPONS OF MONK-SOLDIERS
ズ"
"
I will attack...
The part of his body that moves last!
If he leaps from the railing, he shouldn't be able to evade my next attack. Therefore
IS HE GETTING SERI-OUS?

The feet!
WH-WHAT?!

WAS HE PREPARED FOR ME TO ATTACK HIS FEET?
HE STEPPED OVER THE SPEAR ONE FOOT AT A TIME..
ヒュン
ヒュン

UOOH!
IF THIS WAS A SWORD,
YOU WOULD BE DEAD RIGHT NOW.
PLUNK
HMM?
SHIT!

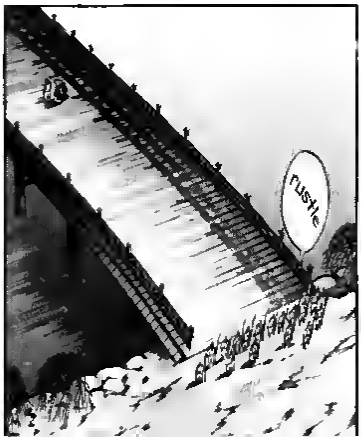
CROAK
CROAK
HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA
UWAAAHH!
AH!
EH?
AND YOU'RE STILL SO AFRAID OF FROGS...

IT'S BEEN A WHILE,
ONI-WAKA!
Sha—
!!
Shana
Oh...

Ah...
Ashh...
I'M SO VERY, VERY SORRY!
I AM EXTREMELY SORRY!
I DIDN'T KNOW IT WAS YOU, SHANA OH,
SO PLEASE FORGIVE MY DISRESPECTFUL ACTIONS!

ポーン
RAISE YOUR HEAD, ONIWAKA!
ラリ
I'M PER-FECTLY FINE
RATHER, IS YOUR HEAD OKAY?
IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU'RE STILL...
THE ONIWAKA I KNOW.

THERE HE IS!!


rustle

!?

SURRENDER IMMEDIATELY!
WE ARE THE ROKUHARA!
ROKUHARA!
YOU BREAK THE LAW, STEALING SWORDS FROM THE HEIKE EVERY DAY! THE ROKUHARA HAS BEEN ORDERED TO CAPTURE YOU!
MUSASHIBO BENKEI!
Shit, if I get caught here, my identity will be revealed...

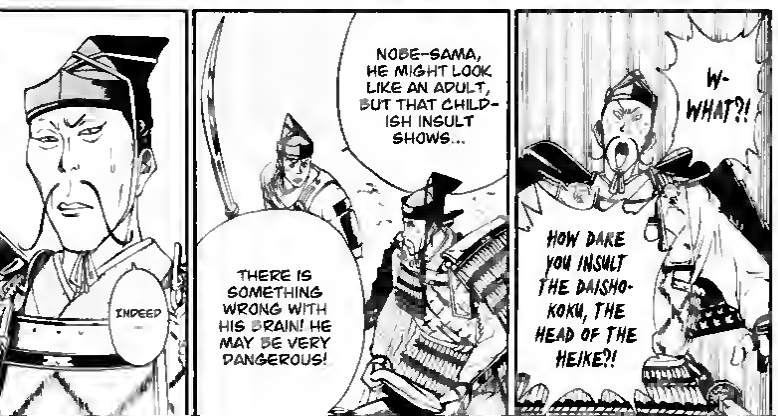
This is bad, what should I do?
ONIWAKA, LEND ME YOUR ARM!
AH?
NOBE-SAMA, WHAT SHOULD WE DO?
OH NO! HE'S TAKEN THAT WOMAN HOSTAGE!
SAVE ME!!!
AAAAAAAAH!
LEAVE HER TO DIE!
THE LIFE OR DEATH OF ONE WOMAN IS OF NO CONCERN.
WE JUST NEED TO CAPTURE BENKEI.

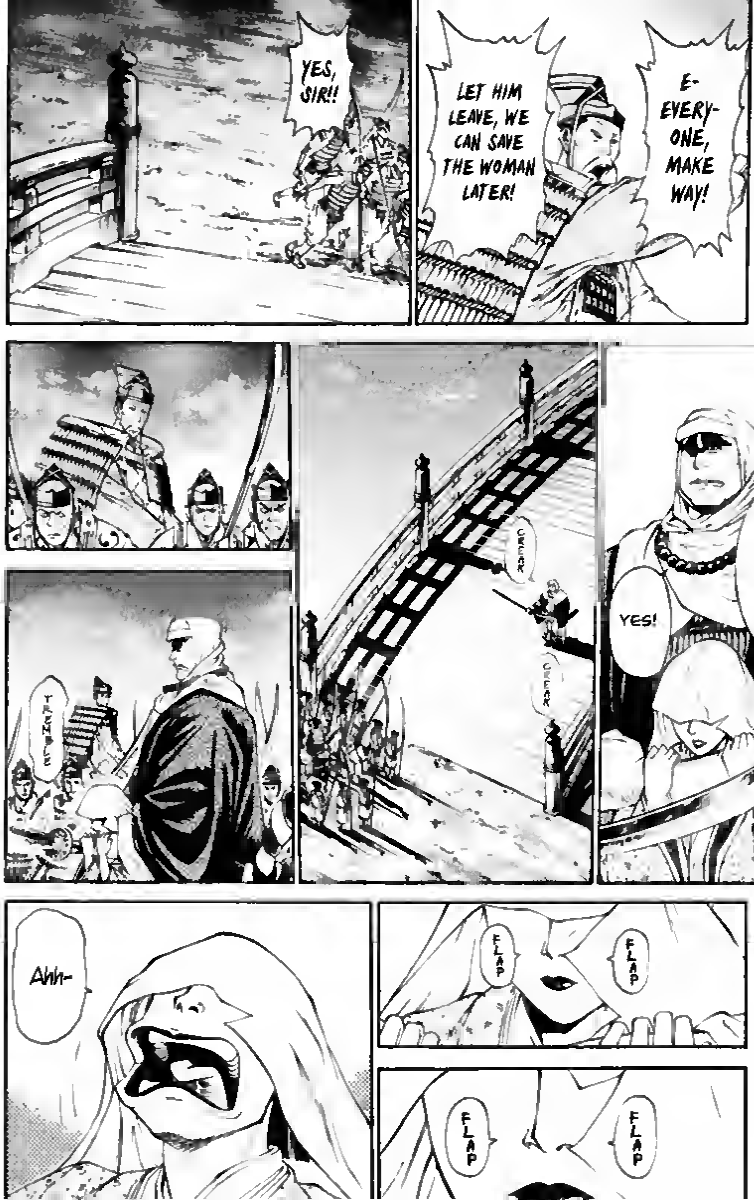
CLEAR THE ROAD AND LET ME PASS,
OR I WILL KILL HER!
Ooh. Okay.
ONIWAKA, LISTEN CAREFULLY AND REPEAT MY WORDS LOUDLY!
CLEAR THE ROAD
W-WHAT?! A BLOOD RELATIVE OF YORIMASA-SAMA?!
YOU DON'T MIND IF I KILL HER?!
THIS WOMAN HAS BLOOD TIES TO MINA-MOTO NO YORIMASA,
WE MUST SAVE THE WOMAN!
NOBODY MOVE! STAY AWAY FROM THEM!
Damn. Yorimasa is one of the Daishokoku's* favorites. If this blood-related woman is killed my reputation will suffer. If it incurs the Daishokoku's wrath it'll be even worse!
YOU THINK IF YOU FIGHT THE ROKUHARA YOU WILL ESCAPE?
BASTARD! BENKEI!
GNAW
GNAW
GNAW

*NO, IT'S NOT DAINAGON. KIYOMORI'S TITLE IS 'CHANCELLOR OF THE REALM' FOR SOME REASON THE CHINESE TERM SEEMS TO BE USED INSTEAD OF THE JAPANESE VERSION 'DAIJO-DAIJIN' THERE WOULD BE THREE OR MORE DAINAGON SERVING UNDER THE DAIJO-DAJIN / DAISHOKOKU

O-Okay...
IGNORE HIM. KEEP REPEATING WHAT I SAY!
W-What should I do?
EH?

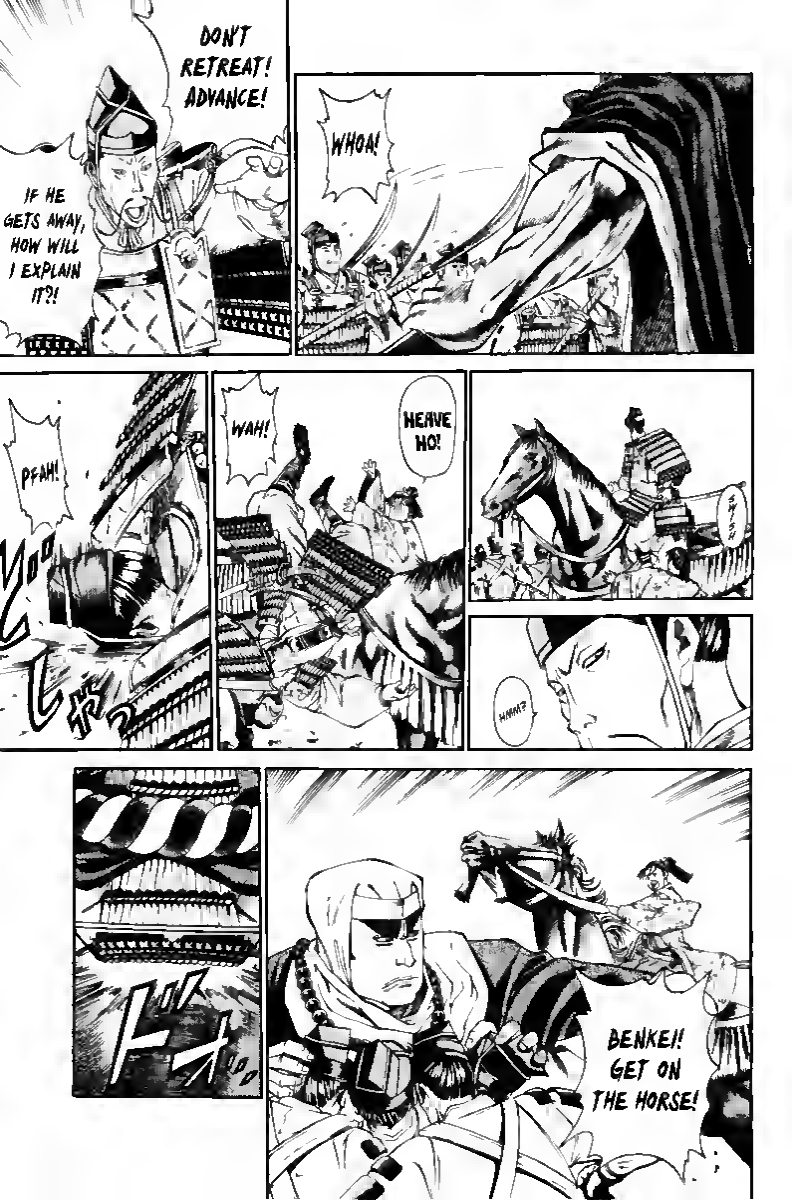
KIYOMORI HAS A STINKY WIENER!
KIYOMORI LIKES TO PEE THE BED!
I-IDIIIOOOT! THE HEIKE DOESN'T SCARE ME!


INDEED
NOBE-SAMA, HE MIGHT LOOK LIKE AN ADULT, BUT THAT CHILD-ISH INSULT SHOWS...
THERE IS SOMETHING WRONG WITH HIS BRAIN! HE MAY BE VERY DANGEROUS!
W-WHAT?!
HOW DARE YOU INSULT THE DAISHO-KOKU, THE HEAD OF THE HEIKE?!


YES, SIR!!
E-EVERY-ONE, MAKE WAY!
LET HIM LEAVE, WE CAN SAVE THE WOMAN LATER!
CLEAR
CLEAR
TREMBLE
OKAY, LET'S GO.
YES!
Ahh-
FLAP
FLAP
FLAP
FLAP

AH!!
AH-CHOO!!
EH?
うおおおお
ARREST THEM BOTH!
A MAN! IT WAS A LIE!
SHIT!

UM?
WHAAAH!
EEEYAH!

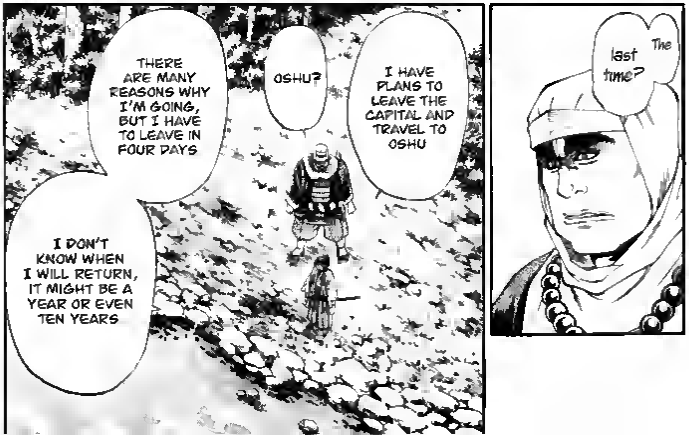

DON'T RETREAT! ADVANCE!
IF HE GETS AWAY, HOW WILL I EXPLAIN IT?!
WHOA!
PFAH!
WAH!
HEAVE HO!
SWISH
HMM?
BENKEI! GET ON THE HORSE!

...
Uhh
THEY SHOULDN'T C TCH UP TO US HERE.
YOU GO ON HOME.
WOW, TRULY YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED AT ALL YOU'RE STILL SO STRONG
I THINK YOU MUST BE THE STRONGEST IN ALL OF JAPAN.

KEISHIN-SAMA TOLD ME WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU,
SUCH A LONG TIME, AND SO MUCH HAS HAPPENED.
AND TO THINK IT'S ALREADY BEEN NINE YEARS.
SHANA OH,
YOU HAVE GROWN AS WELL
IF YOU KEEP IT UP, YOU'LL ONLY ANGER THE HEIKE, AND THAT WON'T HELP EITHER OF US
I DON'T THINK YOU WANT TO BE AN EVIL MONK ANYWAY.
BUT DON'T STEAL SWORDS ANYMORE, ONIWAKA.
I'm sorry..
I have a weak character and I can only do things like this to help you..
When I learned you were the child of Yoshitomo-sama, I could only think of something stupid like this..
to show my support for you...

I'm sorry
I'm sorry
THANK YOU, ONIWAKA.
SHANA OH
ACTU-ALLY, IT MAKES ME HAPPY
TO HEAR THOSE WORDS FROM YOU

NOW I CAN BID YOU FAREWELL PROPERLY.
BUT I'M REALLY LUCKY TO BE ABLE TO SEE YOU ONE LAST TIME


THERE ARE MANY REASONS WHY I'M GOING, BUT I HAVE TO LEAVE IN FOUR DAYS
OSHU?
I HAVE PLANS TO LEAVE THE CAPITAL AND TRAVEL TO OSHU
I DON'T KNOW WHEN I WILL RETURN, IT MIGHT BE A YEAR OR EVEN TEN YEARS
The last time?

I MIGHT NOT EVER COME BACK...
WELL, THAT'S HOW IT GOES
BUT EVEN THOUGH I'M GOING SO VERY FAR AWAY,
I'LL BE SAFE AND FREE TO GO WHERE I WANT...
SHANA OH,
HMM?
P-PLEASE, TAKE ME WITH YOU ...
TAKE ME WITH YOU TO OSHU!!
EH?

Y-YES... BUT...!
HAS HYOUTA RETURNED?
MY LADY!
MY LADY!
BEN-KEI!!
HE BROUGHT THAT BENKEI HERE!
THAT IDIOT BROUGHT THAT MOUN-TAIN-SIZED MAN...
AH!
EH?
UWAAAHH!
A... DEMON!

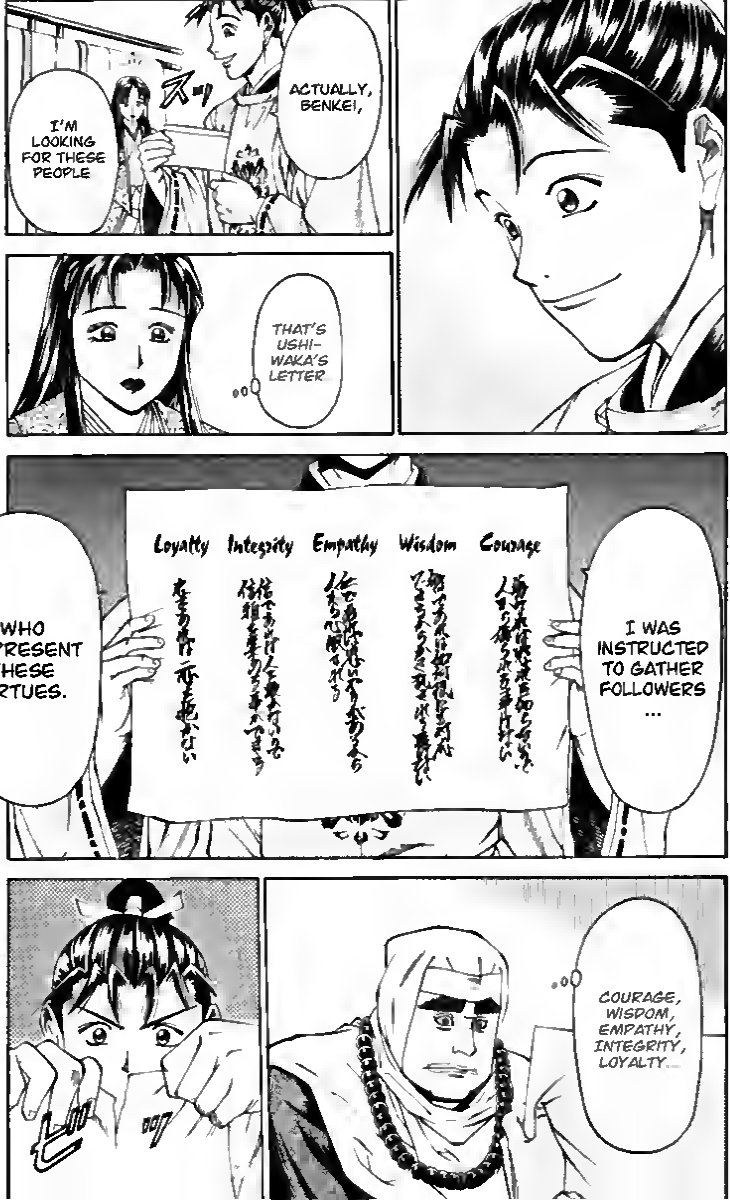
I'm s-sorry to intrude
ONIWA-ER, BENKE! IS ACTUALLY VERY GENTLE AND IS EVEN AFRAID OF FROGS
HASAKA-BABA, THAT WAS REALLY RUDE OF YOU
SO THIS WAS THE BAD OMEN!
MY PREMONI-TION CAME TRUE!
ビク.!

CROAK
YES.
YOU DECIDED THIS TRIP TO OSHU, FATHER,
SO I BELIEVE YOU SHOULD BE INFORMED BEFORE I BRING BENKEI WITH ME.
YOU WANT TO BRING BENKEI ALONG TO OSHU?
HYOUTA ?
DOES BENKEI KNOW EVERY-THING THAT'S HAPPENED TO YOU?
HE KNOWS EVERYTHING EXCEPT THE MATTER REGARDING HYOUTA
...

AREN'T YOU MAKING A RASH DECISION TO GO TOGETHER?
ALTHOUGH YOU ARE FRIENDS, THIS TRIP IS NOT FOR LEISURE
SO HE DOESN'T KNOW HYOUTA IS A SUBSTI-TUTE
ANOTHER PERSON WILL CAUSE UNNECES-SARY TROUBLE FOR HIM
WE SHOULD CONSIDER OSHU FUJI-WARA-SAMA'S CIRCUM-STANCES.
WE ARE NOT FRIENDS.
NO.
?
EH?

I AM MUSA-SHIBO BEHKEI!
AS HIS VASSAL, I WILL FOLLOW SHAHA OH TO THE EHDS OF THE EARTH!
I WILL GIVE MY LIFE FOR HIM!

WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT IT?
AND YOU, USHIWAKA? BENKEI WANTS TO BE YOUR VASSAL,
SHOULD NOT HAVE ANY PROBLEMS WITH HIM?
THEN, I BELIEVE, AS A VASSAL, FUJIWARA MOTONARI-SAMA...
INDEED, BRINGING A VASSAL IS MORE SUITABLE THAN GOING ALONE?
YES.
V...
Vassal?


ACTUALLY, BENKEI,
I'M LOOKING FOR THESE PEOPLE
THAT'S USHI-WAKA'S LETTER
Courage
Wisdom
Empathy
Integrity
Loyalty
I WAS INSTRUCTED TO GATHER FOLLOWERS ...
WHO REPRESENT THESE VIRTUES.
COURAGE, WISDOM, EMPATHY, INTEGRITY, LOYALTY...

ロンッ
オッ

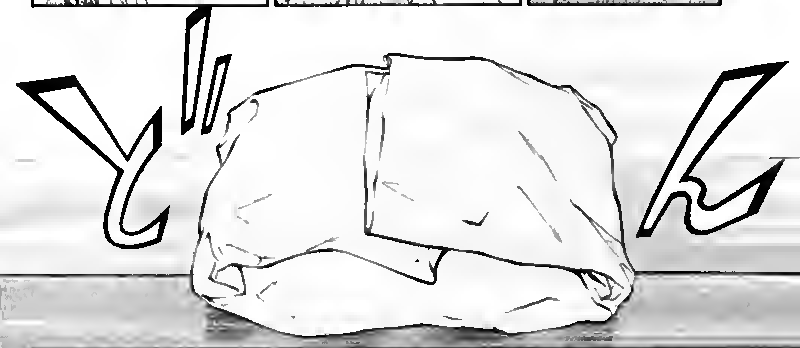
ロン
YOU ARE MY FIRST VASSAL,
AH!
W-WHAT?!

LOYALTY!
Loyalty
A loyal person will have a steadfast heart, and will not harbor any hidden

Loyalty

A loyal person will have a steadfast heart, and will never harbor hidden motives towards his master.

EX-CHANGE OF CUPS
...
MASAKA, GO PREPARE SOME FOOD AND WINE
SHALL WE TAKE THIS OPPORTU-NITY TO EXCHANGE CUPS?
THIS WILL ESTABLISH THE MASTER TO VASSAL RELATION-SHIP
YES!
WAIT, LET ME PREPARE IT!
EH?
RIGHT AWAY


ドドド

THIS IS OUR
WINE CUP OF PROMISE!
グッ
WHAT NONSENSE IS HE SAYING AGAIN?
THE WINE CUP OF PROMISE?
パシッ
パシッ
!!!

THIS...
IT IS!!

BETTER THAN BEFORE?
DID I SHAPE THEM...
?
IT'S JUST RICE BALLS?
Shana Oh...

OKAY!
THEN LET'S MAKE OUR VOW HERE!
TO FRIEND-SHIP!
TO OUR FRIEND-SHIP!

THE REPRESENTATION OF LOYALTY,
MUSASHIBO BENKEI,
IS NOW A VASSAL.

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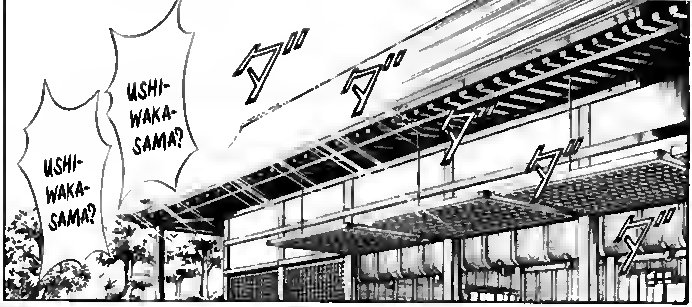
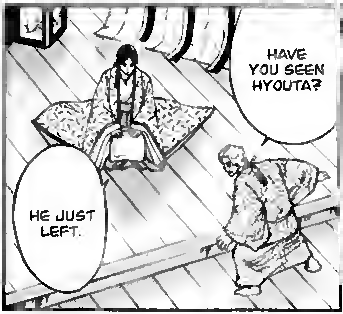
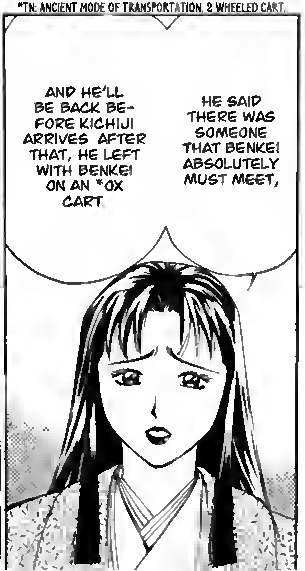
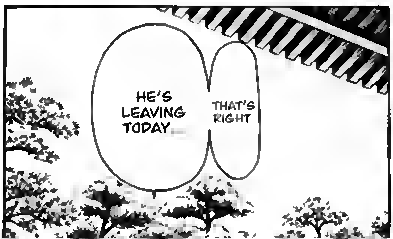
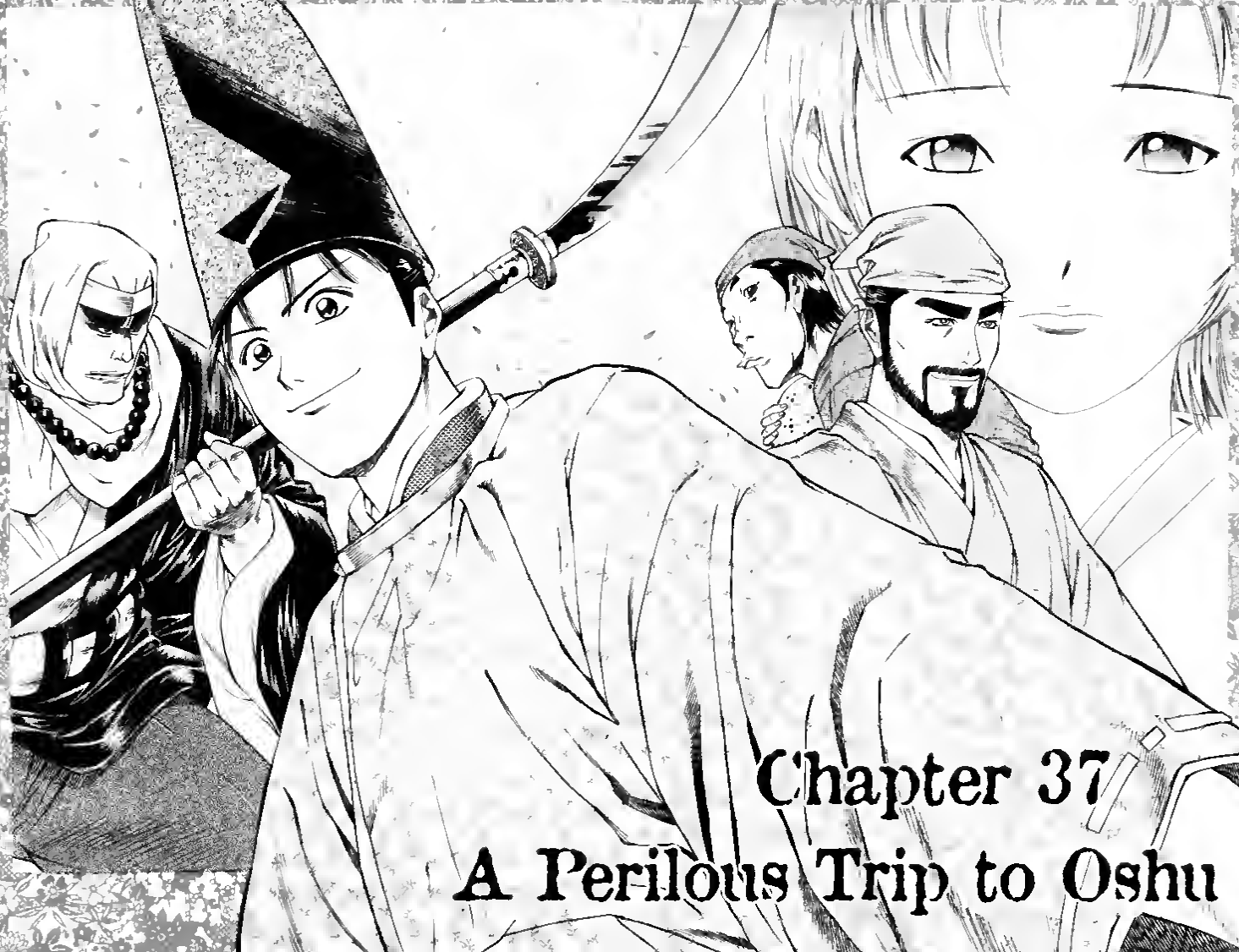




*TN: ANCIENT MODE OF TRANSPORTATION. 2 WHEELED CART.


HE SAID THERE WAS SOMEONE THAT BENKEI ABSOLUTELY MUST MEET,
AND HE'LL BE BACK BE-FORE KICHIJI ARRIVES. AFTER THAT, HE LEFT WITH BENKEI ON AN *OX CART.





Chapter 37
A Perilous Trip to Oshu

YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE ANY REGRETS AFTER THIS, RIGHT?
ガラガラ
KEISHIN-SAMA WILL BE RETURNING TO MOUNT HIEI TOMORROW
WE WERE LUCKY YOU COULD BID A PROPER FAREWELL TO HIM BEFORE HE LEAVES
THAT'S RIGHT.
I AM REALLY VERY SORRY!
I AM REALLY VERY SORRY!

OKAY, OKAY, I UNDER-STAND, I UNDER-STAND
TO BECOME THE VASSAL OF SHANA OH
HAVEN'T YOU BEEN WISHING EARNESTLY FOR THIS FOR A LONG TIME?
AT LEAST YOUR EXPERI-ENCE ON GOJOU BRIDGE DID NOT GO TO WASTE I WILL ALSO NO LONGER FAULT YOU FOR HARM-ING PEOPLE THEPE
ウォン
AH, YES CARRY THIS WITH YOU, TOO
This
This rope was
!!
HATE ME IF YOU WANT TO
THIS ROPE WILL BIND YOUR "DEMON HANDS" TO-GETHER
FOR YOU TO STAY ON MOUNT HIEI
BUT, THIS IS THE ONLY WAY...

ALTHOUGH THESE ROPES ONCE BOUND AND CONTROLLED YOU, THEY CAN THREATEN YOU NO LONGER
FROM NOW ON, USE YOUR STRENGTH TO HELP SHANA OH
THESE ROPES WILL HELP YOU MAINTAIN SELF-DISCIPLINE... IF YOU ARE IN A DILEMMA AND UNSURE, REMEMBER THESE ROPES AND FIND PEACE
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
I WILL ALWAYS CARRY THESE ROPES WITH ME AS A REMINDER OF YOUR TEACHINGS.
Master has always... kept these for me...
WITH THIS, I PUT TO REST MANY YEARS OF WORRYING. I HAVE NO MORE REGRETS.
I AM NOT YOUNG ANYMORE. I BELIEVE THIS WILL BE OUR LAST MEETING.
PLEASE LIVE PROPERLY IN OSHU.

KEISHIN-SAMA...
ONI-WAKA...
BEN-KEI,
TAKE A LAST GOOD LOOK AT THE STREET
YOU NEVER KNOW IF YOU'LL SEE IT AGAIN.
OH... YES...
YOU ARE THE ONLY ELDER WHO CARED ABOUT ME,
I WILL NEVER, EVER FORGET YOU...
KEISHIN-SAMA...
goodbye to this capital...
We are saying...

O-OH
AH, THIS IS BENKEI I MENTIONED HE WILL BE TRAVELING WITH USHIWAKA TO OSHU
WE ARE STILL ARRANGING THINGS, SO PLEASE BE PATIENT
OHO, HERE YOU ARE, KICHIJI
YES
HA HA HA HA! HA! HA!
I'M KICHIJI, PLEASE TAKE CARE OF ME.
I SEE THAT I WILL BE SPENDING QUITE A BIT OF CASH ON YOU FOR MEALS!
SO YOU ARE BENKEI! AS RUMORED, YOU ARE REALLY BIG!

HEY, EVERY-BODY!!
He doesn't seem as bad as Shana Oh's description
I AM IN YOUR CARE.
EVERY-THING IS READY.
IS IT, HASAKA?
ナニハ
YES, IT LOOKS SUPERB ON YOU.
HOW'S THIS?! I LOOK LIKE A REFINED NOBLE!
IT'S A PERFECT FIT!!
ヒロヒロ

I WILL ASK THE PEOPLE OF OSHU TO HOLD THE GENPUKU FOR YOU WHEN YOU GET THERE, AND TO LET YOU WEAR A KAMMURI.**
WE CANNOT CARRY OUT THE GENPUKU* FOR YOU OR THE HEIKE MIGHT TAKE NOTICE, BUT YOU CAN DRESS NICELY AT THE VERY LEAST.

**A BLACK CAP-SHAPED HEADDRESS OF LACQUERED SILK. *T/N: HISTORICAL JAPANESE COMING OF AGE CEREMONY.

BELIEVE THAT I WILL COME BACK ONE DAY, AND UNTIL THEN, STAY IN GOOD HEALTH!
USHIWAKA BIDS YOU FAREWELL
FATHER, MOTHER AND HASAKA...

USHI-WAKA!
YOU HAVE TO TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF
IF THERE IS ANYTHING WE CAN HELP YOU WITH, YOU MUST ASK US, OKAY?
DON'T BE TOO FORMAL WITH US...
BECAUSE YOU ARE MY REAL SON AS WELL.
YES...
MOTHER...
Hyou-ta...

USHIWAKA IS IN YOUR HANDS.
BENKEI.
KICHIJI,
NOW THEN, IT'S ALMOST TIME FOR US TO DEPART
LET'S LEAVE.
ペコ
THEN I WILL TAKE MY LEAVE.
ペコ
He is leaving us yet again.
Ah

I USE THIS FIST TO HIT HIM AGAIN!
I ABSOLUTELY WILL NOT DIE BEFORE...
OKAY!
HYOUTA WILL BE BACK.
DON'T CRY, HE'S NOT LEAVING US FOREVER.
WE SHOULD SEND HIM OFF WITH A SMILE.
... Okay.
HA! HA! HA! HA! HA! HA!
THANK YOU. WHEN I RETURN, YOU MUST ALL BE IN GOOD HEALTH!
HERE, I FINALLY UNDERSTOOD THE MEANING OF 'FAMILY'

THEN LET'S GO BENKEI, GET ON THE CART
So much luggage
YES
EH?
DO YOU INTEND TO LEAVE LIKE THAT?!
WAIT!

AH!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
SHUT UP!

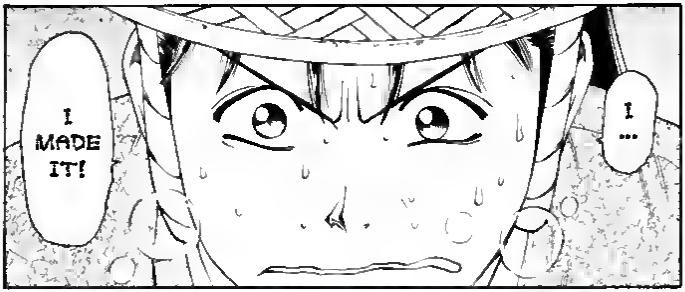
WE ARE TRAVELING INCOGNITO.
LISTEN UP, THIS ISN'T A LEISURE TRIP FOR A NOBLE,
WHAT IS THIS ABOUT?
UH
YOU WILL FIT IN ON THIS TRIP?
DO YOU THINK, WEARING THOSE FANCY CLOTHES,
DO YOU KNOW WHO THIS PERSON IS?!
YOU... DID YOU JUST SAY COMMONER? HOW RUDE!
WHAT? THIS TYPE OF THING SHOULD BE QUITE EASY FOR HIM.
AND FOLLOW ALONG THAT'S ALL
YOU ONLY NEED TO PORTRAY A COMMONER,

ACTING AS A COMMONER SHOULD BE CHILD'S PLAY FOR YOU, RIGHT?
LIKE A TRAVELING ARTIST WHO DIDN'T GET REGULAR MEALS?
……
ハジ
I I UNDER-STAND…
SHANA OH-SAMA?

HURRY UP. IF YOU'RE NOT THERE IN FIFTEEN MINUTES, WE'LL LEAVE WITHOUT YOU
GET CHANGED AND COME MEET UP WITH US QUICKLY.
I'LL BE GOING.
DAMMIT! STUPID OLD BEARDO!

TIE THAT CORD TIGHTER OR IT'LL FALL OFF.
RIGHT.
A...
A...
A...
A...
GOD

HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF


I MADE IT!
I ...

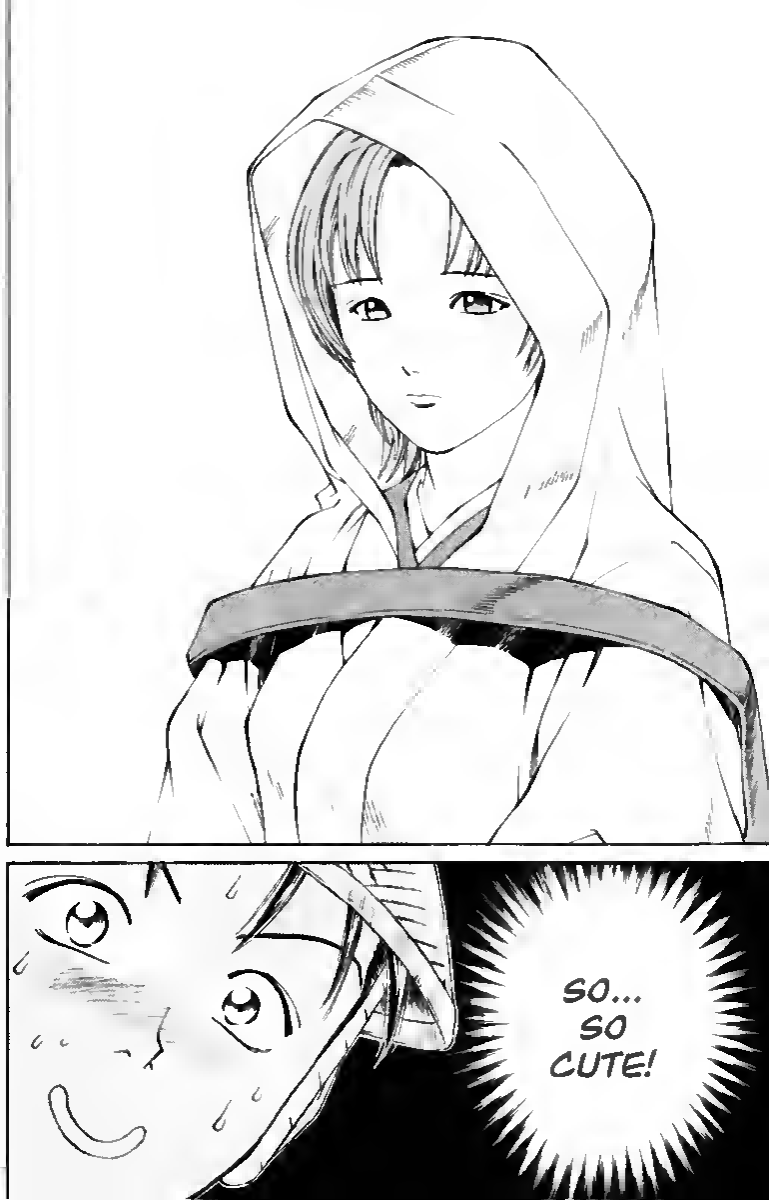
EH?

BOTH OF YOU WORK TOGETHER AND BEING THAT LUG-GAGE
YOU ALMOST DIDN'T MAKE IT.

EH ~~~?!
WE HAVE TO CARRY LUGGAGE TOO?
and my pack is a weird wooden doll?!
OF COURSE. PICK IT UP AND GET MOVING
PROTECT IT LIKE A PRECIOUS BABY
KICHIJI-SAMA, WHO ARE THOSE TWO?
Uh uh
THEY'RE JUST PORTERS

MAN, THIS THING IS SO HEAVY...
Lose some weight!
...
SHANA OH-GAMA,
THIS TRIP HAS NOT STARTED SMOOTHLY
HMM?
YOU THINK SO?
KICHIJI IS BEING A NAG,
BUT I'M USED TO TRAVELING LIKE THIS...
USED TO IT?
Don't mind me, it's nothing at all

*CHAPTER 12: BIRUSHANA BUDDHA "LIGHT BRINGER WHO ILLUMINATES ALL CREATION; THE SUN"


SO...
SO
CUTE!

Ah...
Hey... Benkei. Go say hi to her.
EH? ME?
YOU KNOW, JUST GIVE HER A SIMPLE GREETING!
Oh... Okay...
NICE TO MEET YOU.
PLEASE TAKE CARE OF ME.

TAKE CARE OF ME AS WELL
Then, Shana Oh-sama, you should go greet her yourself...
Did.. Did I?
YOU IDIOT! LOOK! YOU MADE HER HATE US!
IT'S BECAUSE YOU DIDN'T GREET HER PROPERLY!
ME?
I CAN'T HANDLE WOMEN VERY WELL..
I....

SO YOU HAVEN'T HAD MUCH CONTACT WITH WOMEN
SHUT UP ALREADY!!
WELL, THAT'S TRUE. THERE WEREN'T ANY GIRLS YOUR AGE AT KURAMA TEMPLE,
I'M SORRY.
TO THINK ANYONE IS MORE UNCOMFORTABLE WITH WOMEN THAN I AM.
HEY BRO!
DON'T BOTHER WITH HER!
IF YOU JUST WANT TO TALK TO A PRETTY GIRL, WATCH OUT! THAT ONE WILL HURT YOU INSTEAD!

I JUST WANTED TO SAY THAT WE SHOULD BE FRIENDS SINCE WE'RE TRAVELING TOGETHER,
SO I TRIED TALKING TO HER
I TRIED TO CHAT WITH HER, BUT SHE IGNORED ME AS WELL
That's right!
HURT ME?
THEY ARE TRYING TO HIDE THEIR GUILT.
WHEN MEN ARE TOO TALKATIVE,
AND HE REALLY IS TOO TALK-ATIVE
POURING BLOOD IS A BIT OF AN EXAGGERA-TION.
I AM MOST GRIEVOUSLY INJURED!
THE BLOOD IS POURING FROM MY BROKEN HEART.
I AM A MAN OF PRINCIPLE HOW COULD SHE SAY I HAVE A GUILTY CON-SCIENCE?
SHE HAD THE NERVE TO SAY THAT.

THIS IS A GOOD PERSON.
I DON'T KNOW WHY SHE WOULD IGNORE A GOOD-LOOKING BOY LIKE YOU THOUGH..
I'M NOT VERY HANDSOME, SO IF I DON'T MAKE A GOOD FIRST IMPRESSION, I'M USED TO IT.
GOOD LOOKING?
AH, SORRY, I FORGOT TO INTRODUCE MYSELF.
I'M DAKICHI, AND I'LL BE TRAVELING IN THIS GROUP WITH YOU.
PLEASE TAKE CARE OF ME.
OH— YOU LOOK LIKE A VERY STRONG MONK SOLDIER.
TRAVELING WITH YOU REALLY PUTS MY MIND AT EASE
AH, I AM CALLED SHANA.
THIS IS BENKEI.

ALTHOUGH THE GIRL IS RATHER COLD, THE FOUR OF US ARE IN THIS GROUP TO-GETHER.
AT LEAST THE GUYS SHOULD GET ALONG FINE.
That girl named Kasumi
rather than cold she looks more...
Sorrowful...
OKAY! WE'RE READY TO SET OFF!
IT WILL TAKE US ABOUT THIRTY DAYS TO REACH HIRAIZUMI!
BE READY TO HELP EACH OTHER OUT!
RIGHT!

ポイ
ガラ
ガラ
ガラ
OKAY! MOVE OUT!
HMM?
WHY DID DAKICHI THROW AWAY THOSE SMALL POUCHES?
THREE OF THEM?
?

START THEIR JOURNEY FROM KYOTO...
TO HIRAI-ZUMI IN OSHU.
AND SO, THESE TRAVEL-ERS, EACH HOLDING SOME-THING WITHIN THEIR HEART,

I WONDER WHERE HYOUTA AND BENKEI ARE NOW
It feels so lonely
It's the same as when he left for Kurama Temple,
IT HASN'T EVEN BEEN HALF A DAY SINCE THEY LEFT
THEY COULDN'T HAVE TRAVELED VERY FAR
WHAT'S WRONG, HASAKA?
GOZEN SAMA! THIS IS BAD!
WHAT?! THE ROKUHARA?!
AT THE GATES!
THE ROKUHARA ARE...

ROKUHARA! WHAT ARE YOU HERE FOR?
THIS... THIS IS?

AH!

ナル
ハル

Da...
Daisho-koku sama...
LONG TIME NO SEE.
FINANCE MINISTER
Uhh...

This... This visit is unexpected, what can we do for you?
USHI-WAKA
IS HERE, RIGHT?
!!
U-Ushi-waka is at Kurama Temple...
HE IS NOT!

HE WENT MISSING ABOUT TEN DAYS AGO
FOUR OR FIVE DAYS AGO, A BOY ABOUT THE SAME AGE AS USHIWAKA WAS SPOTTED ON GOJOU BRIDGE
I BELIEVE HE HAS RETURNED HOME!
Then you are welcome to search the house
I DON'T NEED YOUR PERMISSION FOR THAT
DAISHO-KOKU-SAMA

TO THINK THAT THE ALMIGHTY DAISHOKOKU-SAMA WHO RULES THE LAND
COULD BE TROUBLED BY A SMALL CHILD EVEN AFTER ALL THESE YEARS.
WHAT ?
FINANCE MINISTER, THAT SOUNDED LIKE AN INSULT...
...
HAA
HAA
HAA

IS IT OSHU?
!!!
LET'S RETURN.
I NEARLY FORGOT ABOUT THAT
FUJIWARA MOTONARI OF HIRAIZUMI IN OSHU IS YOUR RELATIVE
SO, THAT'S IT YOU SENT HIM SOMEWHERE OUTSIDE MY CONTROL.
WHAT NERVE

N-NAGANARI-SAMA... WHAT NOW?
CERTAINLY, SOMETHING WILL HAPPEN TO HYOUTA ON THIS TRIP...!
FIND USHIWAKA ON THE WAY TO OSHU.
YES, SIR!
HOW-EVER...
EH?
HOW-EVER?

AH— I AM SO EXHAUSTED. I WALKED UNTIL MY MIND WAS BLANK!
HEY, IT'S ONLY THE FIRST DAY!
BY THE TIME WE ARRIVE, YOU'LL BE AN IDIOT!
HAHAHA HAHAHA...
HEY, HEY, WE DIDN'T BOOK THE WHOLE INN DON'T DISTURB THE OTHER CUSTOMERS

AND GUARDS, PLEASE BE ESPECIALLY VIGILANT

EVERY-BODY, BE ON YOUR TOES!
TOMOR-ROW, WE'LL BE PASSING A MOUNTAIN RANGE KNOWN TO HAVE MANY BANDITS.
UNDER-STOOD!

AH
SORRY

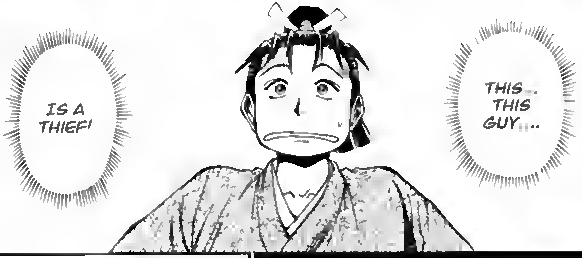
WE WON'T

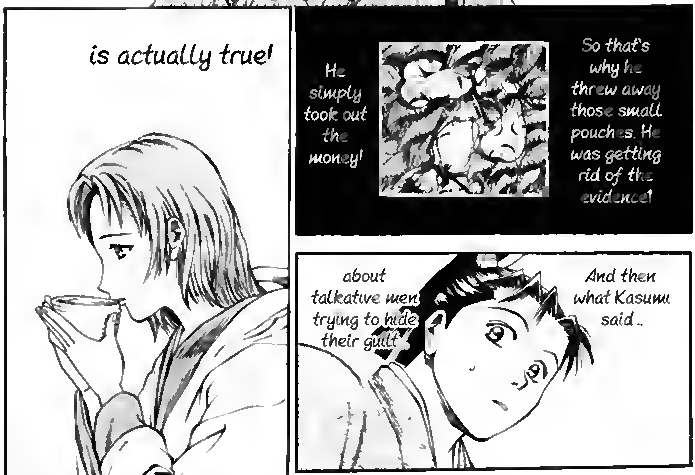
IT HURTS
LOOK AT THESE BLISTERS ON MY FEET.
YES!
ARE YOU OKAY?
I'M NOT OKAY! IT HURTS SO MUCH I FEEL LIKE I'M DYING!
Why... Why did she sit beside me? Oho! Maybe she was attracted by my charisma and good looks on the road, so she gathered her courage and sat beside me to talk!
!!

AHEM
IF SO, THEN I MUST FIND THE COURAGE TO SAY SOMETHING!
WHY?
It's been a tiring day, right?
EH? BECAUSE WE WALKED ALL DAY.
THAT'S TRUE
IF WE DON'T WALK,
WE WON'T REACH HIRAIZUMI

HE
HE
DAKICHI IS REALLY ENERGETIC ISN'T HE TIRED AT ALL?
He keeps on talking and talking...
IT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE MET SUCH A DIFFICULT GIRL...
SHE'S TOTALLY DIFFERENT FROM KIN AND TOKUKO.
ドン
OH!
AH!

I AM EXTREMELY SORRY
IT'S OKAY
BE MORE CAREFUL WHEN YOU ARE IN A HURRY.


IS A THIEF!
THIS... THIS GUY...


is actually true!
He simply took out the money!
So that's why he threw away those small pouches. He was getting rid of the evidence!
about talkative men trying to hide their guilt
And then what Kasumu said...

HMM?
RIGHT, BENKEI?
IT SEEMS OUR GROUP COULD TURN OUT TO BE EXTREMELY INTERESTING!
A COLD WOMAN WITH A CLOSED HEART AND A THIEF

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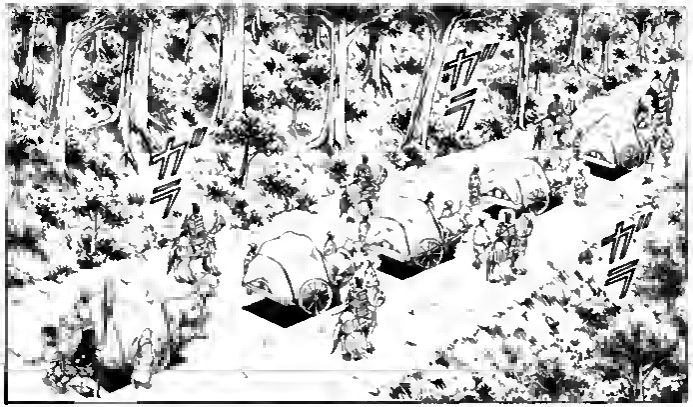
ガラ
ガラ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ガラ
ガラ

YOU SHOULD NOT SAY SUCH THINGS.
SHANA-HAN,

Ouuuu... These blisters still hurt...
I can't walk like this... Can we go a little slower?

WHY?

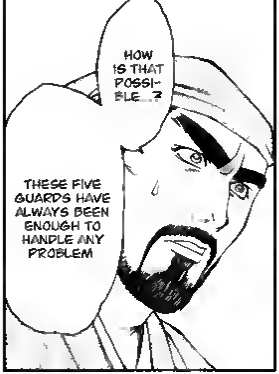
NOT TO WORRY, DAKICHI
THERE ARE BANDITS IN THE AREA. IF WE ARE NOT CAREFUL, WE MIGHT LOSE OUR LIVES.
DIDN'T YOU HEAR WHAT KICHIJI SAID YESTERDAY?
I HOPE YOU'RE RIGHT.
ANY BANDITS WILL HAVE SECOND THOUGHTS BEFORE ATTACKING US
OUR GUARDS LOOK VERY IMPRESSIVE
I... I know that...
RATHER, DAKICHI, YOU SHOULD WORRY ABOUT A THIEF TAKING YOUR PROPERTY
EH?

IT'S THEM, RIGHT?
YEAH.
CHK
!!
IF YOU VALUE YOUR LIVES, LEAVE THE GOODS BEHIND!
STOP!

GUARDS, TO THE FRONT!
HMM?
B- BANDITS!
YES!
THE REST MOVE TO THE BACK AND PROTECT THE GOODS!
IIIIIEEE!
THEY...
THEY'RE REALLY HERE!

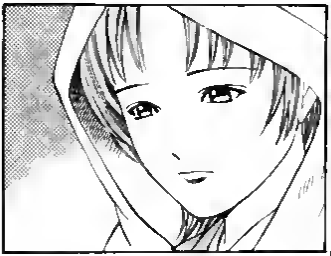
HYAAAHH!
YOOOHH!
SHANA! WHERE ARE YOU GOING? HIDE AT THE BACK!
...
IF ANYTHING HAPPENS TO YOU, I WON'T GET MY MONEY!
MOVE FASTER, YOU BASTARD!
CHE!
GOO
OOO

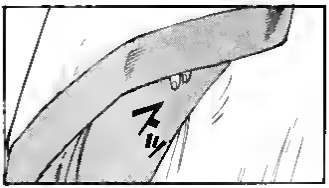
AM I TRULY YOUR ONLY CONCERN?
WATCH!
CLASH!
CLASH!
CLASH!
UWAAAHH!
DRIP


HOW IS THAT POSSIBLE...?
THESE FIVE GUARDS HAVE ALWAYS BEEN ENOUGH TO HANDLE ANY PROBLEM

BUT RATHER, HIGHLY TRAINED SOLDIERS
AT THIS RATE, IT'S JUST A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE ALL YOUR GUARDS GO DOWN.
THEY AREN'T ORDINARY BANDITS,

IT WON'T ALWAYS BE SMOOTH SAILING
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO PLAN FOR EVERY SINGLE PROBLEM.

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IF THIS GOES ON, EVEN OUR LIVES WILL BE AT RISK...
THE GUARDS SEEM TO BE LOSING GROUND!

WOMEN SHOULD STAY IN THE BACK!
HEY!
WE WON'T JUST FIND HELP IN THESE MOUNTAINS
THIS IS BAD...

BENKEI,
OUT OF SO MANY ENEMIES,
HOW MANY CAN YOU DEFEAT?
ALL OF THEM.
THEN HOW MANY, IF YOU WERE TO DISABLE THEM QUICKLY?
EIGHT.

WHAT?!
THEN I WILL DEAL..
R-RASCAL! MY MISSION IS TO GET YOU SAFELY TO OSHU!
WITH THE REMAINING FOUR, I GUESS..
BUT IF THIS CONTINUES, THE GOODS YOU ARE SHIFTING FROM KYOTO TO OSHU...
WILL ALL BE SNATCHED AWAY
WHEN YOU'RE ABOUT TO LOSE YOUR HEAD,
WHY ARGUE ABOUT THE LENGTH OF YOUR HAIR?
HMM...
Ushio certainly addressed his impressive skills at Kamiya Temple.
a battle with multiple opponents is another matter entirely... But right now I see no other options

BENKEI
YES
YOU'RE RESPONSIBLE FOR DEFEATING SEVEN OF THEM
EH?
IF YOU DEFEAT MANY MORE ENEMIES THAN I DO,
I MIGHT APPEAR WEAK, AND THAT WOULD MAKE ME UNHAPPY.
...

YES!
HAAAHH!
WHAH!
IN-COM-ING.
ニャギ!
ハァ

CHAPTER 37, END.

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SHANA OH YOSHITSUNE

by SAWADA Hirofumi /沢田 ひろふみ

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HEY! STOP!
NO WAY! IF HE ENDS UP KILLED BY BANDITS.
IN ORDER TO FULFILL USHIWAKA'S LAST REQUEST, I MUST REACH HIRAIZUMI SAFELY.
I CAN'T ALLOW SOME BANDITS TO INTERRUPT THIS TRIP!

YES!
LET'S GO, BENKEI!
YOU TAKE THE ONES OVER THERE!
YES!
Chapter 38
The Real Enemy

……
SO HUGE !!
SO ...

HMPH!
PAK
PAK
PAK
PAK
HMM ?

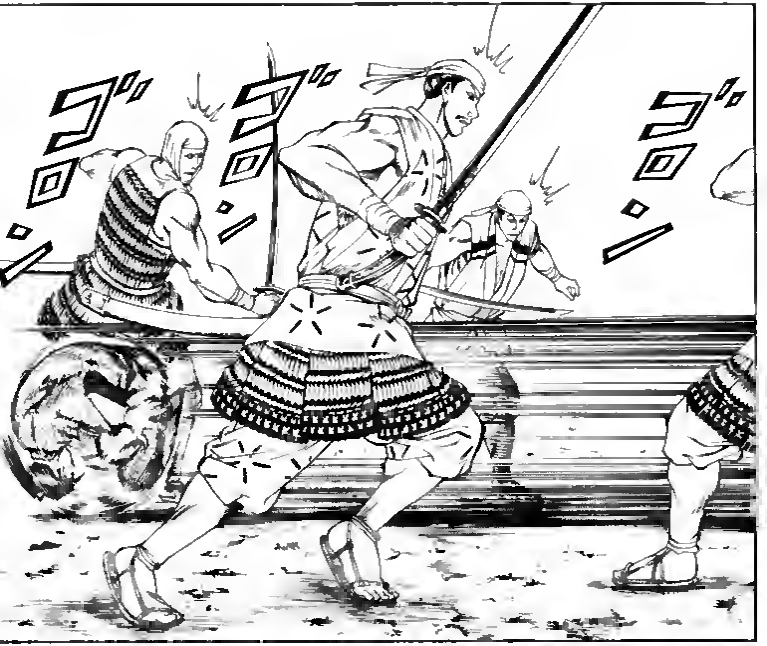
DON'T BE AFRAID! ATTACK!
HE'S ATTACKING DIRECTLY INTO OUR ARMOR! WHAT AN IDIOT!
HE'S HUGE, BUT HE'S ALL BRAWN AND NO BRAINS!
URYUK
URYUK
URYUK
HUH ?

W-WHAT? WITH JUST ONE STRIKE
HE MANAGED TO DESTROY THE ARMOR AND KILL THEM!

AMI-TA-BHA
COME!
UHH

HE RAN OUT
Shana
Oh
that Gazan-dono taught me!
Let's see how well I can use the martial arts
HZZA

W-
WHAT?
Shit!
My blisters
SPASM
BURST
?!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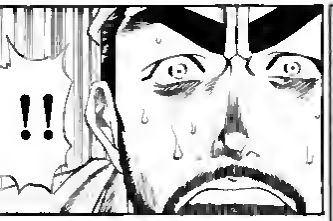
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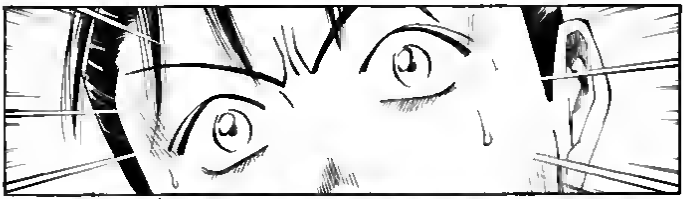
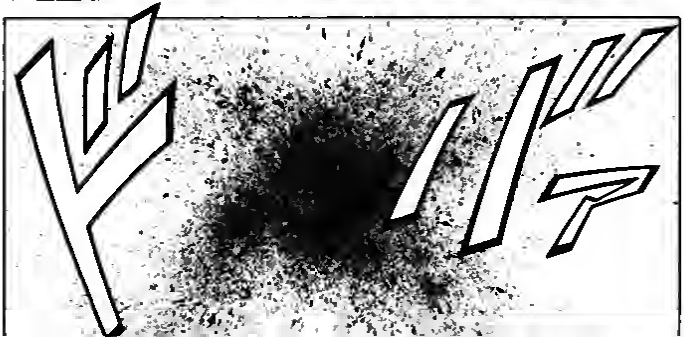
W-WHAT ARE YOU DOING, SHANA?!

HE RUSHED OUT ALL FULL OF HIMSELF, BUT HE'S JUST A WEAKLING!
WHAT AN ODD-BALL!
DIE!

SHANA!!

HE'S GONNA DIE!
THIS IS BAD!

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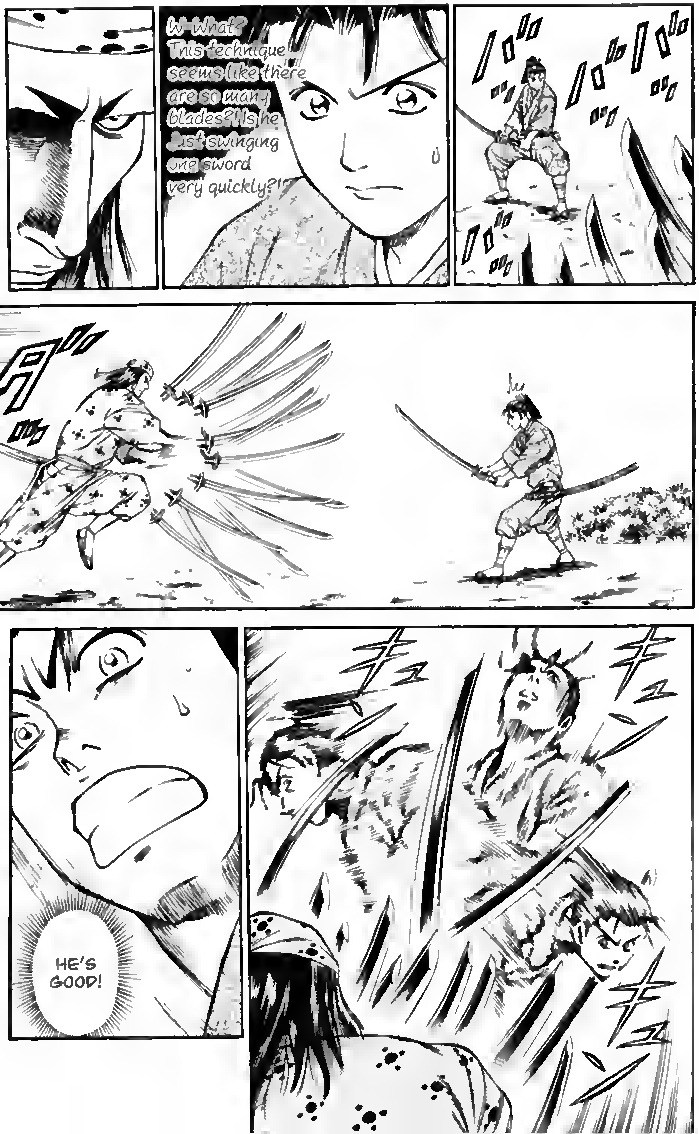
HUH ?

UWAAAAAHHHH!
I TOTALLY FORGOT ABOUT MY BLISTERED FEET LUCKILY, MY COUNTER ATTACK WORKED
WHAT A CLOSE SHAVE...
This sword is really easy and comfortable to use...
WHAT JUST HAPPENED?
W-WHAT?
This guy...
He was off-balance and fell, but was still able to aim at and attack their unarmored areas

AH!
GUH
GUH
GUH
WHAM!
Whoa! Well I knew he's strong.
He really took on seven people at once!
ZAG

So the only one left for me
Is this guy!
ヒュー
ヒュー

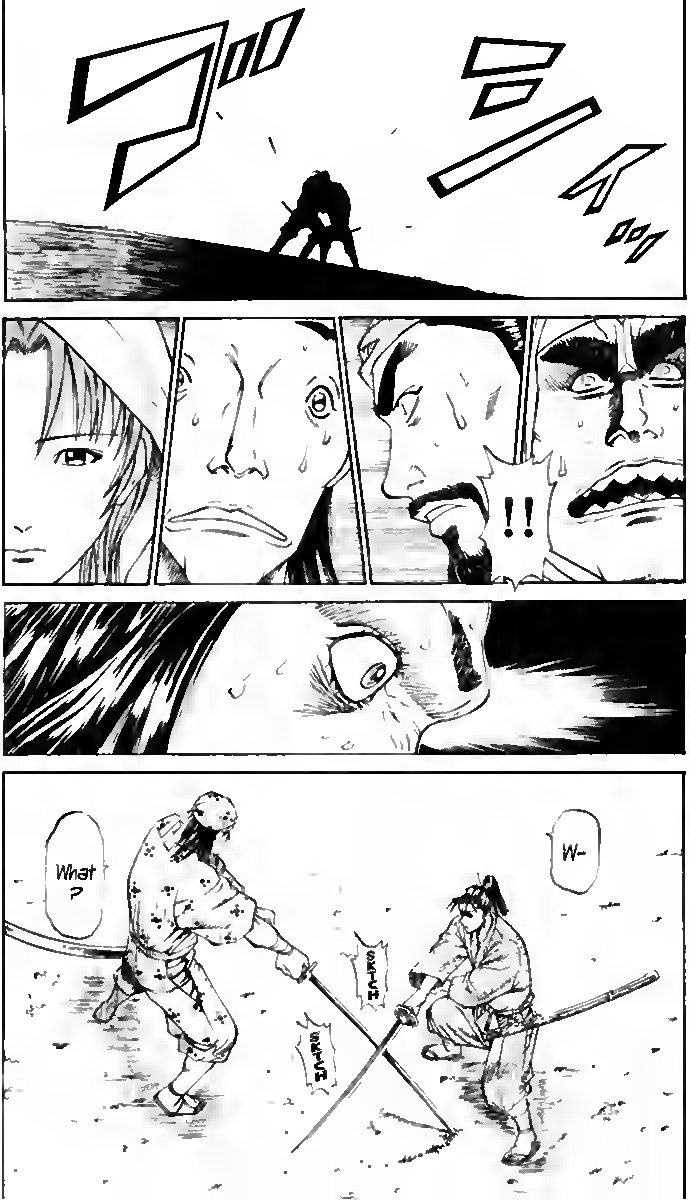

W-What?
This technique seems like there are so many blades! Is he just swinging one sword very quickly?!
HE'S GOOD!

ヒュ〃
ガッ
ヒュ〃
UH!
R-I-P

I can't anticipate an attack I can only dodge at the last moment
What's with this technique? All I see are a lot of swords... I can't track its movement at all!
Damn this guy is annoying
and what's with his determination?!
If I die here everyone else will be in danger
It seems like he's more interested in taking our lives than the supplies...
An ordinary bandit would have fled when he noticed all his companions were down
let the rest of them face this danger!
I definitely won't...

SHANA-SAMA!
LEAVE IT TO ME!
DON'T COME OVER!
I DON'T UNDER-STAND. IT WILL BE MUCH MORE DIFFICULT WITHOUT BENKEI.
THAT MAN SEEMS TO BE THE STRONGEST OF THEM.
HMM?
SHANA-SAMA

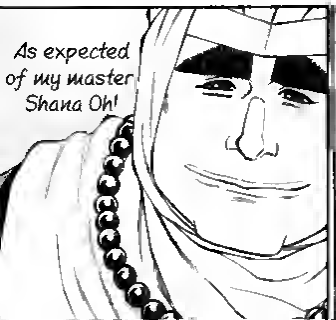
W-What?
DIE!!
You're incredibly fast brat
You got lucky dodging the strike at your head just now
but I've been aiming at your head to keep you focused on defending it
so if you can't see the movement of the sword
and I suddenly aim for your heart, you will...


!!
W-
What?
SWISH
SWISH

H-How is this possible?!
How was he able to block my attack?
IF YOU MAKE EXCESSIVE MOVEMENTS,
THE TENGU WILL SCOLD YOU.
WHAT?

WE'RE SAVED!
TWO PEOPLE JUST SAVED US FROM TWELVE BANDITS!
SUCCESS!

D-DEFEATED...


As expected of my master Shana Oh!

Amazing. He is not just the kid practicing at the mountain temple any longer, he has true martial skill.
Shana has such incredible powers of observation that he could see through such a messy, unconventional sword technique.

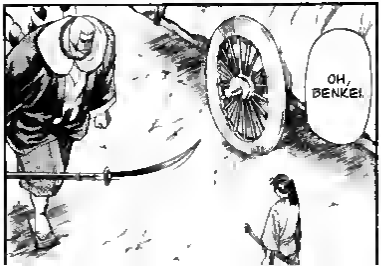
SHANA OH!

HU,
HU,
HU.
AT LEAST WE'RE FINISHED WITH THEM.

SUCH AN ELEGANT VICTORY! ABSOLUTELY FANTASTIC!
EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE NOT VERY TALL

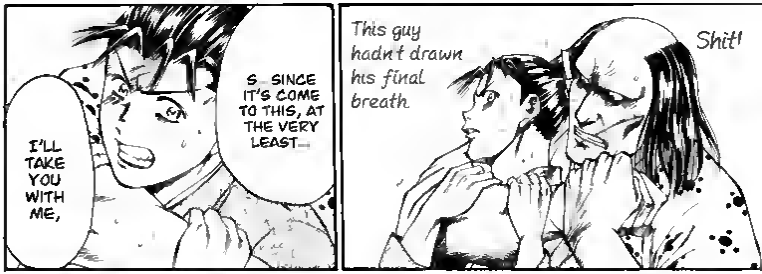
OH, IT WAS NOTHING
SHANA, YOU ARE SO STRONG! YOU'RE REALLY, REALLY STRONG!

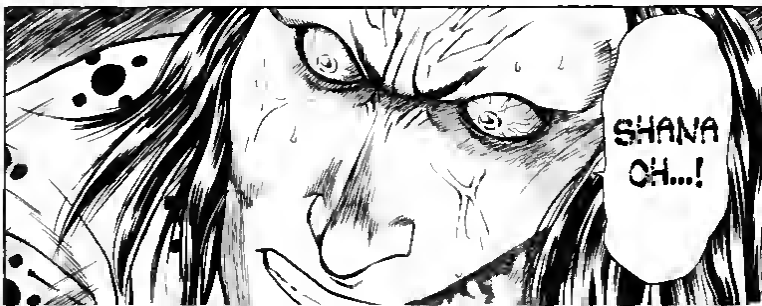
WHOOOH
DON'T CALL ME SHORT!


OH, BENKEI

YOU'RE AMAZING! YOU FINISHED THEM WITH ONLY A COUPLE STRIKES!
NO, YOU'RE THE AMAZING ONE, SHANA-SAMA.
IT LOOKS LIKE THE ONLY INJURIES ARE ON THE GUARDS
AND THEY DON'T SEEM TOO BADLY HURT, SO IT TURNED OUT GREAT
!!
SHANA-SAMA!
HM?
WHA-!

AH!
DON'T MOVE!
HIIIE!
SHANA-SAMA!


I'LL TAKE YOU WITH ME,
S-SINCE IT'S COME TO THIS, AT THE VERY LEAST...
This guy hadn't drawn his final breath.
Shit!


SHANA OH...!

URK!
UUH!
CLAMP
HOW DOES HE KNOW MY NAME?
!?
With Shana's small stature it's almost impossible for him to escape. I am enemy's grapple. What can I do?
WAA!
AH!
His whole arm is around Shana's neck!
SHANA!

UGH!
CHOKE
CHOKE
CHOKE
Bonk!
Bon
YES!
SHANA-SAMA!

AIM DIRECTLY AT ME, AND...
PIERCE THROUGH!
N-NO WAY!
WHAT?!
EH?
B-BUT!
Quickly
Aim for...the heart...
.....

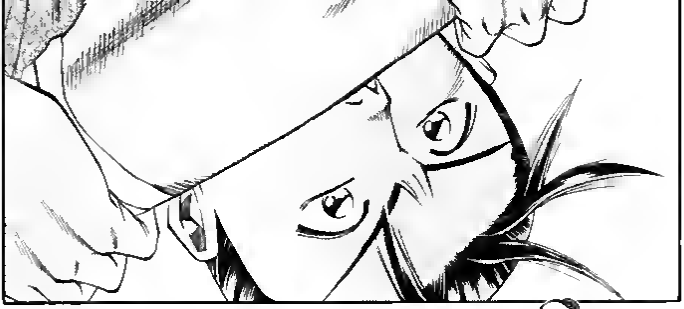
YES!
YOU'RE REALLY GOING TO CUT THROUGH SHANA?!
WHAT?! YOU AGREED ?!
STOP! BENKEI!
N-No way.

STOP!
YAAAHH!!
HIIIEE!

It...

ブルブル

HE ACTUALLY
IT CAN'T BE...

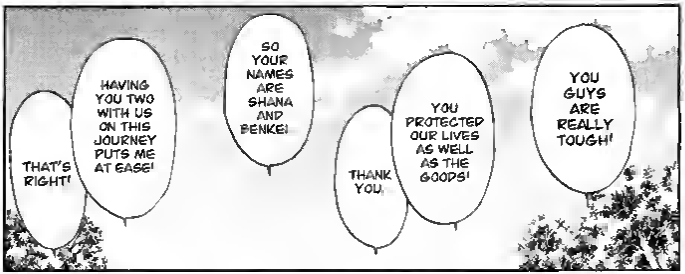


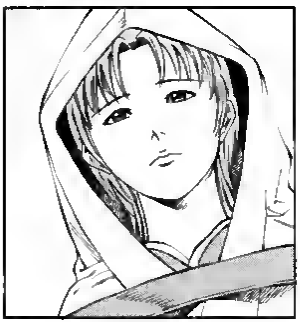
Did he communicate with Benkei somehow?
He
jumped upwards
ドン
ドン
ドン

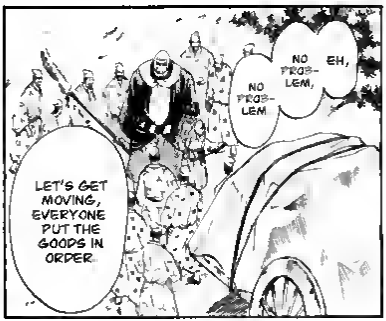
COUGH
COUGH
COUGH
COUGH
URRKK!
SHANA-SAMA, ARE YOU OKAY?
HAA
HAA
HAA
IT WAS NOTHING
HEH
BENKEI
THAT WAS PERFECT,
AND THEN I ONLY DEFEATED FOUR PEOPLE
BENKEI, DID YOU AND SHANA...
HAVE SOME SORT OF SIGNAL BETWEEN YOU?
I'm so unlucky... Now not only do my feet hurt but my neck too
Damn it
I'm a total wreck, dammit

T-THEN... HOW DID YOU PULL OFF SOMETHING SO DANGEROUS?
DIDN'T YOU REALIZE YOU COULD HAVE KILLED SHANA?!
NO ...
EH?
SHANA-SAMA SAID TO PIERCE ...
SO I PIERCED ...
These two_?
He_ He didn't have any doubts at all and just followed orders?
And Shana trusted Benkei to do what he said and so was able to successfully dodge in that situation_

IS ACTUALLY THAT STRONG!
THEIR MUTUAL TRUST...


THAT'S RIGHT!
HAVING YOU TWO WITH US ON THIS JOURNEY PUTS ME AT EASE!
SO YOUR NAMES ARE SHANA AND BENKEI
THANK YOU.
YOU PROTECTED OUR LIVES AS WELL AS THE GOODS!
YOU GUYS ARE REALLY TOUGH!



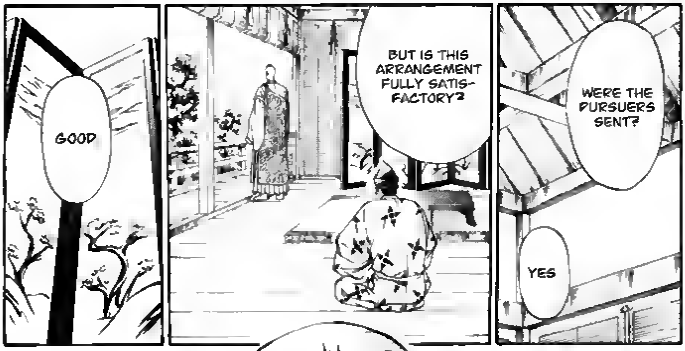

LET'S GET MOVING, EVERYONE PUT THE GOODS IN ORDER.
NO PROB-LEM,
NO PROB-LEM
EH,

WHO ARE YOU?
YOU ...
AH, KASUMI-SAN.
EH?
...
AH, I'M JUST A LOWLY TRAVELING ENTER-TAINER.
HUH?

THERE WAS SOMETHING STRANGE JUST NOW..
AH! THAT'S RIGHT
EH?
DID I SAY SOMETHING WRONG? WAS CALLING MYSELF LOWLY TOO MUCH?
MAYBE...
MAYBE BECAUSE WE OFTEN CALLED TO EACH OTHER BY NAME?
HMM... IS THAT WHY...? IT JUST FEELS WRONG SOMEHOW
HOW DID HE KNOW WHO I WAS?
THAT MAN ACTUALLY ADDRESSED ME BY NAME
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
HEY, DAKI-CHI
ビクッ!
OH!
YEAH, YEAH, JUST STAY THERE, OKAY?
Uwaaa
ラッ ラッ

!!!
It's not out of greed, I'm just teaching them a lesson!
so I was taking some of their stuff?
Oh, nothing... I thought I'd give these evil people a taste of their own medicine.
This seems pretty valuable. It totally doesn't look like something a bandit would carry.
And look, I found something that looks very expensive.
IT'S THE HEIKE'S CREST!
T-THIS BUTTERFLY SYMBOL...
IT LOOKS LIKE THIS TRIP...
WILL BE FRAUGHT WITH DANGER FROM HERE ON OUT...
To think that the Heikei chased us up here already
A bandit would never have this
so these men must be the soldiers!

TAIRA RESIDENCE


GOOD
BUT IS THIS ARRANGEMENT FULLY SATISFACTORY?
WERE THE PURSUERS SENT?
YES

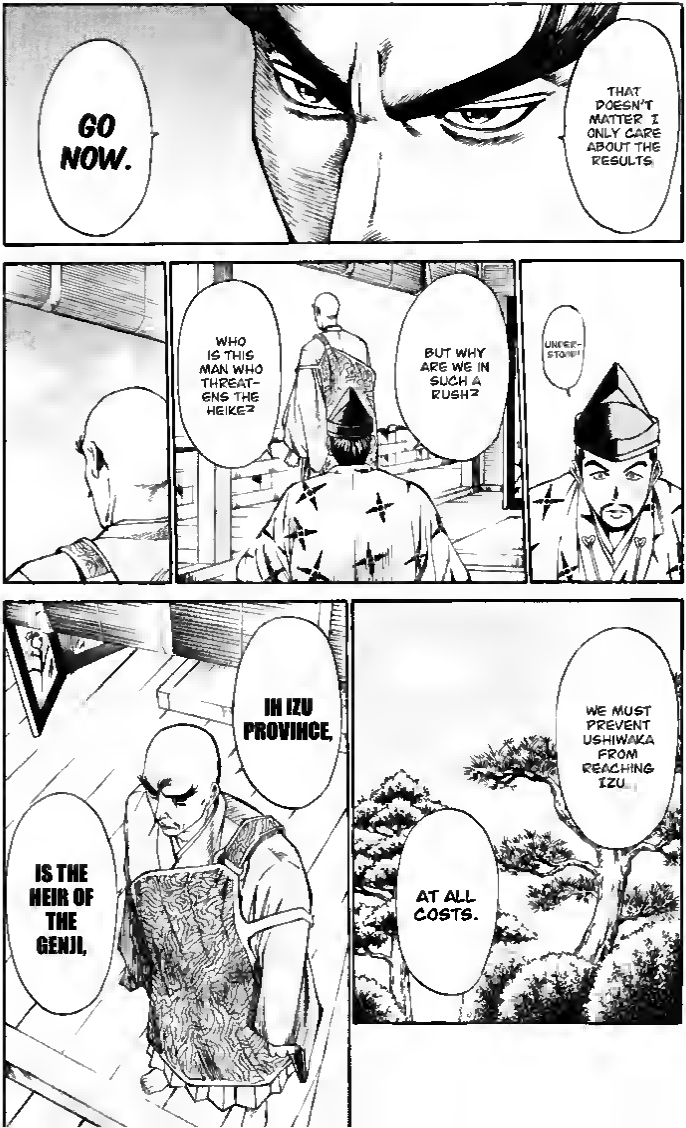
KILL THEM ALL.

IF USHIWAKA IS HEADING TO OSHU, FUJIWARA MOTONARI MUST ALREADY HAVE AGREED TO IT
OSHU IS PROBABLY ALREADY PREPARING FOR HIS ARRIVAL
Uh...
WHAT DO YOU THINK WOULD HAPPEN...
IF THE HEIKE KILLED USHIWAKA ON THIS TRIP?
OSHU'S CAVALRY IS A HUNDRED THOUSAND STRONG
IT WOULD... INCREASE TENSIONS, AND MIGHT EVEN CAUSE CONFLICT BETWEEN OSHU AND THE HEIKE...
THEIR STRENGTH IS CONSIDERED SUFFICIENT TO RIVAL THE HEIKE
IT WOULD BE DISADVAN-TAGEOUS...
TO MAKE THEM OUR ENEMY.

RATHER THAN HEIKE SOLDIERS ATTACKING AND KILLING ONLY USHIWAKA
THEREFORE, IT WOULD BE BETTER IF A GROUP OF BANDITS ATTACKED AND KILLED THE ENTIRE BAND OF TRAVELERS,
YES
REPORTING.
WE'VE LOST CONTACT WITH THE SOLDIERS SENT TO KILL USHIWAKA. THEIR STATUS IS UNKNOWN.
WHAT?! THE SOLDIERS FROM THE FORTRESS?!
YES
....

WHEN IT CONCERNS USHIWAKA, HOW MANY TIMES...
HAS HE DONE THE IMPOSSIBLE?!
THEY MUST HAVE FAILED ALREADY...
HUH? EVEN IF THEY ARE DRESSED AS BANDITS,
THAT WAS AT LEAST A DOZEN TRAINED SOLDIERS!
AS EXPECTED, ORDINARY SOLDIERS ARE NOT ENOUGH TO KILL HIM...
AND USHIWAKA WILL MEET THAT MAN SOONER OR LATER
HM...
THAT MAN?
IN ORDER TO DEFEAT THE HEIKE!
USHIWAKA WILL DEFINITELY GO AND SEE HIM

BRING THE TWO GROUPS...
WHO OPERATE IN THE SHADOWS, TO ME!
To defeat the Heike...
while they are in power?
PAY THEM VERY WELL TO RETAIN THEIR SERVICES...
AH... UM... BUT...
THE PROFESSIONAL ASSASSIN CLANS, THE IWAGOU AND SORYUU?
A-ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT...
WE CAN'T CONTROL THEIR MOVEMENTS
WE DON'T KNOW WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF WE ENGAGE THEIR SERVICES...


GO NOW.
THAT DOESN'T MATTER. I ONLY CARE ABOUT THE RESULTS.
UNDER-STOOD!
BUT WHY ARE WE IN SUCH A RUSH?
WHO IS THIS MAN WHO THREAT-ENS THE HEIKE?
IN IZU PROVINCE,
IS THE HEIR OF THE GENJI,
WE MUST PREVENT USHIWAKA FROM REACHING IZU.
AT ALL COSTS.

THEY MUST NOT MEET!
MINA-MOTO NO YORI-TOMO!
CHAPTER 38, END.

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by SAWADA Hirofumi /沢田 ひろふみ

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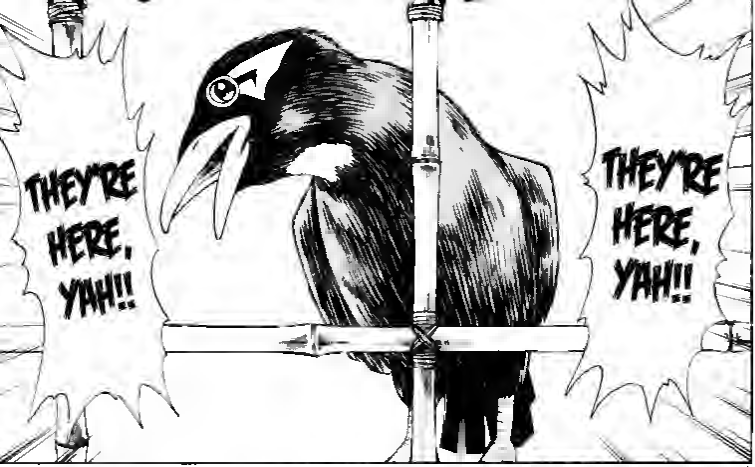
The Bloodthirsty Clan

THE IWAGOU AND SORYUU CLANS MUST WORK TOGETHER AND KILL HIM IMMEDIATELY!
USHIWAKA CANNOT BE ALLOWED TO MEET YORITOMO IN IZU!

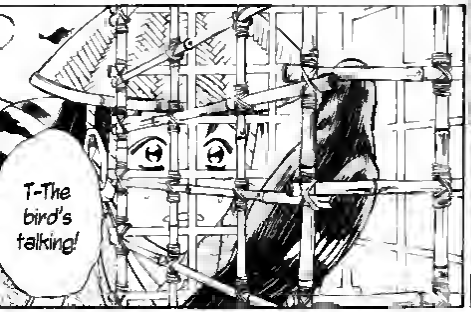
I FEEL SO RELAXED, LIKE THE BANDIT ATTACK YESTERDAY WAS ONLY A DREAM
WOW, THE WEATHER IS REALLY NICE TODAY
DON'T WORRY, DAKICHI
I HOPE WE WON'T FACE THAT SORT OF UNLUCKY SITUATION AGAIN
RIGHT, SHANA?
WITH SUCH HEAVY SECURITY, I DOUBT BANDITS WILL EVEN CONSIDER ATTACKING US
WE HAVE TWICE THE NUMBER OF GUARDS AS YESTERDAY AND THEY ALL LOOK VERY STRONG

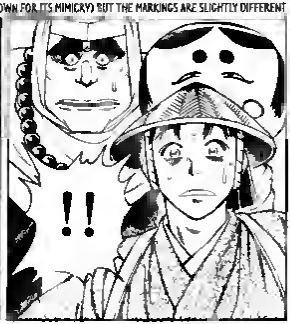
I HOPE YOU'RE RIGHT
IF BANDITS COME, TELL ME FIRST, OKAY?
ACTUALLY, THERE'S ALREADY A SNEAK THIEF RIGHT HERE
HUH? WHAT?
OH, NOTHING, NOTHING AT ALL.
THEY'RE HERE YAH!!
EH?
WHAT ?!
HMPH!

THEY'RE HERE, YAH!!!
THEY'RE HERE, YAH!!!
BA-BANDITS AGAIN?
BENKE!!
YES!
THIS IS THE ONE WHO WAS SHOUTING.
I DON'T SEE ANY-THING! WHO SAW THEM?
WHERE?! WHERE ARE THE MOUNTAIN BANDITS?!
NOBODY, NOBODY AT ALL. NO ONE SAW BAN-DITS.



*IT LOOKS LIKE A COMMON HILL MYNA (KNOWN FOR ITS MIMICRY) BUT THE MARKINGS ARE SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT



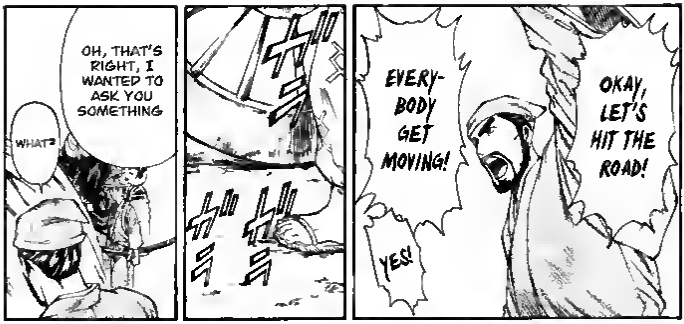


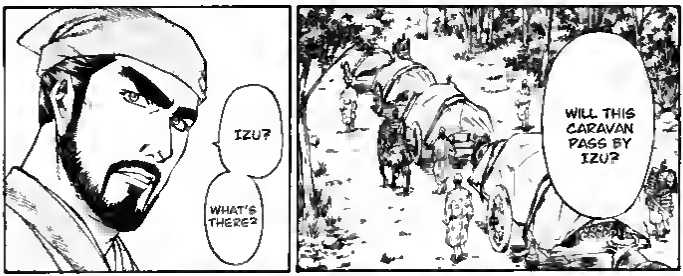
I BOUGHT THIS BIRD FROM THE PEOPLE OF SONG.[2] IT IS A RARE BIRD THAT CAN SPEAK NINE LANGUAGES.
BUT THE STRANGE WAY IT ADDS "YAH" TO THE END OF ITS SENTENCES SEEMS TO BE A CORRUPTED FORM OF "YES."[3]

2: DURING YUSHITSUNE'S LIFE, THIS WAS THE SOUTHERN CHINA SONG DYNASTY, (1127-1279). THE JIN DYNASTY CONTROLLED NORTHERN CHINA.

3: THE BIRD SAYS "DEU" (デュ) AS A CORRUPTED FORM OF "DAYO" (ダヨ) WHICH ROUGHLY TRANSLATES TO "IS."

YOU STILL DON'T HAVE A NAME...
THAT'S SO PITIFUL
WHY DOES IT NEED A NAME? A BIRD IS A BIRD
NAME ?
WHAT'S ITS NAME?
NOW SAY "HELLO."
OI, KUON,
HEY, THAT BIRD ISN'T YOURS TO NAME, IT'S A GIFT FOR HIDEHIRA-SAMA.
KUON... SOUNDS GOOD.
WHY DON'T WE CALL IT KUON? ISN'T IT ABLE TO SPEAK NINE LANGUAGES?*
KUON ...
DOES IT MATTER? IT'S ONLY FOR THE TRIP.
*KU (ク)=NINE, ON (音)=SOUNDS
UH?
UGLY, YAH.


OKAY, LET'S HIT THE ROAD!
EVERY-BODY GET MOVING!
YES!
OH, THAT'S RIGHT, I WANTED TO ASK YOU SOMETHING
WHAT?

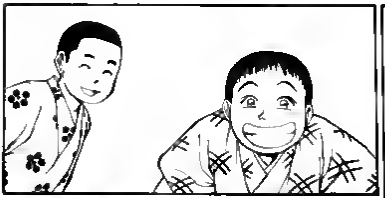

WILL THIS CARAVAN PASS BY IZU?
IZU?
WHAT'S THERE?

There is someone I want to meet in Izu.

DAMN THAT KICHIJI! WHAT THE HELL
WE'LL BE CLOSE BY, WHY CAN'T WE STOP? WHAT A TIGHTWAD.
IZU IS OUT OF OUR WAY. WE'RE NOT GOING THERE
WHAT?!
YES
BENKEI,
WHEN WE PASS NEAR IZU, I'M LEAVING TO VISIT SOMEONE THERE. BE READY TO COME WITH ME.
OH
OKAY

THERE'S NO TIME TO WASTE IF I DON'T GET SHANA OH TO HIDEHIRA-SAMA AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE,
THIS TRIP WILL BE FOR NOTHING!
when the Heike are right behind us
We can't afford a detour

IWAGOU
VILLAGE



HEHEHE
...
WHERE IS EVERY-ONE?

OVER HERE?

WHAP
CAUGHT YOU!
EH? HAYATE-SAMA! WHEN DID YOU GET BEHIND ME?!
AND HOW DID YOU FIND ME?!
I HEARD YOUR FOOT HIT THE GROUND.
AH, THAT'S WHY
IF I KEEP PRACTICING, WILL I EVER BE AS GOOD AS YOU, HAYATE-SAMA?

He's lighter again this time...
Isn't he eating enough?
わっはっはっ…
わっはっはっ…
IT'S MY GRANDMOTHER!
PLEASE COME WITH ME!
HAYATE-SAMA!
WHAT'S THE MATTER?

I don't want to eat.
YOICHI-BAA-SAMA,* YOU HAVEN'T EATEN FOR THREE DAYS STRAIGHT, RIGHT?
IF YOU KEEP THIS UP, YOU WON'T MAKE IT.
SO WHAT?
*BAA SAMA: GRANDMOTHER / OLD WOMAN (RESPECTFULLY)
OUR VILLAGE HAD A BAD HARVEST LAST YEAR, AND IT LOOKS TO BE THE SAME THIS YEAR. WE HAVE ALMOST NOTHING TO EAT.
RATHER THAN FEEDING AN OLD WOMAN LIKE ME, YOU MIGHT AS WELL GIVE IT TO THE CHILDREN. LET THEM HAVE A FULL MEAL

Don't worry about me.
Before the children die of hunger, you should let the old woman go, right?
Baa-sama...
BELIEVE ME, AND EAT QUICKLY!
I, HAYATE IWAGOU, WILL FIND A WAY TO SAVE THE VILLAGE FROM THIS HARDSHIP!
DON'T WORRY, BAA-SAMA! AS CHIEF OF THE VILLAGE,
NEITHER YOU NOR THE KIDS WILL DIE OF HUNGER!

YOU'RE BACK, NII-CHAN!
HAYATE-SAMA
SLASH
SHE'S FINE, SHE ATE SOMETHING AT LEAST
WHAT ABOUT YOICHI-BAA-SAMA?
THAT'S GREAT!
AND IF WE DON'T REPAY OUR DEBTS, EVEN OUR FARMLAND WILL HAVE TO BE SOLD...
THAT TINY PLOT OF FARMLAND IS THE ONLY THING SUSTAINING OUR VILLAGE.
IF WE KEEP HAVING BAD HARVESTS DUE TO LACK OF WATER, I DON'T KNOW WHAT WE'LL DO...
IF THIS CARRIES ON, OUR VILLAGE WILL...
BUT IT'S NOT LIKE WE DON'T EMPATHIZE WITH BAA-SAN,

IWAGOU VILLAGE HAS ALWAYS DEPENDED ON THE STREAM FROM THE BIG RIVER AS OUR WATER SOURCE.
BUT THEY ACTUALLY BUILT A DAM AT THE MOUTH OF THE STREAM.

IT'S THEIR FAULT WE'RE IN THIS SORRY STATE!

ALTHOUGH THE RIVER CAN ALSO BE CONSIDERED THEIR PROPERTY, THIS IS GOING TOO FAR.
OUR DIFFICULTIES ARE NOT CAUSED BY NATURE, BUT RATHER, BY MAN.

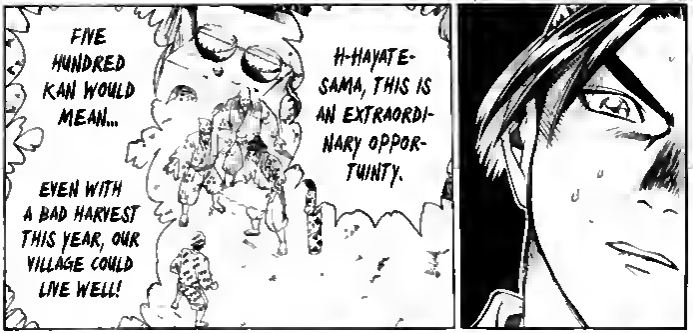
IF WE DON'T GET ANY RAIN, OUR STREAM WILL RUN DRY FOR LACK OF WATER,
AND WE CAN'T SAVE MONEY BECAUSE WE MUST KEEP PAYING TO OPEN THE DAM.

DAMN!

THIS WAS SET IN STONE THREE GENERATIONS AGO. IT'S SIMPLY TOO LATE TO ARGUE...
BUT SAYING SOMETHING NOW WON'T CHANGE ANYTHING.

WHAT'S WRONG? YOICHI?
HAYATE-SAMA!
THE... THE HEIKE SENT A JOB OVER!
WHAT ?!
GO KILL SHANA OH AND EVERY-ONE TRAV-ELING WITH HIM
DIS-GUISED AS BAN-DITS,
!!!
THE REWARD IS:

*FROM AROUND 1100–1600, CHINESE CURRENCY WAS THE STANDARD COINAGE OF JAPAN


FIVE HUNDRED KAN WOULD MEAN...
EVEN WITH A BAD HARVEST THIS YEAR, OUR VILLAGE COULD LIVE WELL!
H-HAYATE-SAMA, THIS IS AN EXTRAORDI-NARY OPPOR-TUNITY.

I CAN'T DO THIS ...
Hayate-sama?
WHY?
WH...
HAYATE-SAMA, YOU ARE THE ELDEST SON OF THE IWAGOU, AND LEADER OF THIS VILLAGE!
YOU'VE COMPLETED ALL THE PREVIOUS MISSIONS, WHY STOP NOW WHEN THIS ONE COULD SOLVE ALL OUR PROBLEMS?!
WHY WON'T YOU TAKE THE JOB?!

DO YOU WISH TO LIVE ON THE BLOOD OF OTHERS?
WE HAVE HARMED MANY PEOPLE, JUST FOR MONEY.
AND NOW WE MUST ALSO KILL THIS SHANAOH, WHO WE HAVE NEVER EVEN MET?
HAYATE-SAMA, THIS IS JUST A JOB. IT'S THE SAME AS FARMERS WHO PLOW THE LAND, OR WARRIORS WHO FIGHT IN WARS. THEY MUST ALL WORK TO CONTINUE LIVING.
THIS HAS BEEN THE PROFESSION OF THE IWAGOU CLAN FOR DECADES.
BUT THE PREVIOUS VILLAGE HEAD LOST HIS LIFE WHILE ON A JOB.
HEY! NOW IS NOT THE TIME FOR THAT!
...

!?
THE SORYUU BROTHERS!
y.
yes.
AH, THE WHOLE IWAGOU CLAN IS HERE TOGETHER!
EXCELLENT! WE'RE HUNGRY SO PREPARE US SOME RICE BALLS TO EAT!

WE CANNOT GO AGAINST THE SORYUU CLAN...
USE RICE FROM THE GRANARY
NII-CHAN, WE DON'T HAVE ANY RICE LEFT TO SERVE THEM.
BUT THOSE ARE EMERGENCY RATIONS...
EH...
Yes...
P-Please eat
YOU GUYS ARE SO SHABBY EVERY TIME WE COME.

HMM
むしゃ
I-I'm very sorry
This is all we have..
WHAT IS THIS? KOWAME-SHI?
*KOWAMESHI: HARD RICE. DURING DROUGHT, RICE WAS STEAMED INSTEAD OF BOILED TO SAVE WATER. THE RESULT IS PERFECTLY EDIBLE BUT CLEARLY NOT SOFT RICE
AND YOU ACTUALLY DARE TO FEED THIS TO ME?!
YOU PIECE OF SHIT! YOU DRINK THE WATER THE SORYUU CLAN PROVIDES...
ずる…
ヘルシャ

I am very sorry, but could you please wait just a little longer?
Uh...
ARE LONG OVERDUE
THIS YEAR'S AS WELL AS LAST YEAR'S WATER FEES
HAYA-TE,
IS THAT THE MANNER IN WHICH YOU ASK A FAVOR?
!!
WORDS ARE NOT ENOUGH, SHOW US YOUR SINCERITY WITH ACTIONS!
MY BROTHER IS RIGHT!

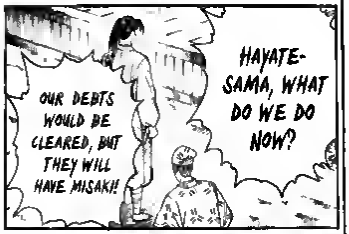
I BEG YOU SINCERELY ...
COULD YOU EXTEND THE DEADLINE AGAIN,
AH!
HAYATE-SAMA!

EH?
AS FOR WHAT YOU OWE US FOR LAST YEAR'S WATER FEES, WE'RE...
WILLING TO WRITE IT OFF.
IS...
IS THAT TRUE ?!!
THE HEIKE ...
HAS A JOB FOR US.
The Soryuu received a similar assignment?
!!
LET US COMPLETE THE JOB.
JUST BACK US UP.

we cannot oppose the Soryuu
It's infuriating that even now!
The water fees are nothing compared to 500 kan. Do they intend to hoard the bounty?
AH!
I understand...
I...
:
MISAKI!
YOU HAVE ALSO GROWN PRETTIER,
NII-CHAN...

SORYUU-SAMA!
STOP!
EH?
I HAVE AN EVEN BETTER PROPOSAL FOR YOU
HAYA-TE,
PERFECT
HEH, SHE HAS DEVELOPED QUITE WELL
IN EX-CHANGE FOR MISAKI!
I CAN CANCEL THIS YEAR'S DEBTS AS WELL.

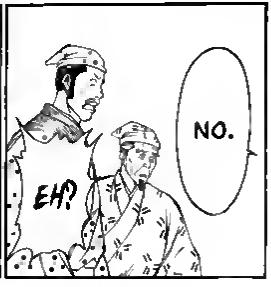
!!
T-This is really
OTHERWISE, YOUR WATER FEES ARE DUE IN FULL TOMORROW! EVERY SINGLE CENT!
B-But
HIYAH!
HAYATE, YOU ARE THE VILLAGE LEADER OF THE IWAGOU CLAN.
IF YOU GIVE BOTH THE JOB AND YOUR SISTER TO US, YOUR VILLAGE WILL BE SAVED.
IF YOU THINK ABOUT WHAT'S BEST FOR THE VILLAGE, IT SHOULD BE AN EASY DECISION, RIGHT?
REMEMBER TO SUPPORT US WELL!


HAYATE-SAMA, WHAT DO WE DO NOW?
OUR DEBTS WOULD BE CLEARED, BUT THEY WILL HAVE MISAKI!

Nir-chan

It looks like...
we must act first!

AS LONG AS WE TAKE THE HEAD OF SHANA OH FIRST,
ALL THE MONEY WILL BE OURS!
YES! AS LONG AS WE HAVE THE 500 KAN, WE HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR!

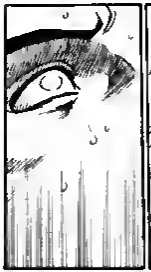

NO.
EH?

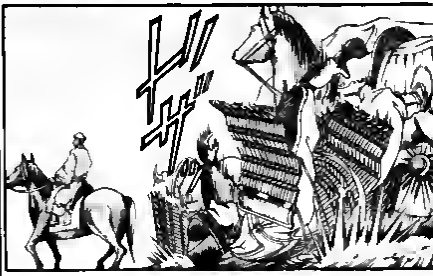
THE SORYUU CONTROL OUR WATER SOURCE
IF WE INCUR THEIR WRATH, WHO KNOWS WHAT THEY WILL DO

THEN... WHAT WILL WE DO?
OFFER MISAKI TO THEM WITH OUR OWN HANDS?

ガラ
ガラ
ガラ
SHANA-SAMA, SHANA-SAMA,
THE HANDSOME SHANA OH-SAMA,
QUICK, LET ME HEAR YOU SAY IT!
IDIOT, YAH.
KASUMI-SAN, DO YOU LIKE BIRDS?
THIS BIRD LOOKS SO CUTE BUT ONLY BAD THINGS COME OUT OF ITS MOUTH...
WHO'S THE IDIOT? DAMN IT!

ANOTHER ONE THAT LOOKS CUTE, BUT IS ACTUALLY DIFFICULT TO DEAL WITH.
YES...
ガニ
ガニ
ガニ


UHH!

UHH?
UHH ?!


HMM?

WHAT'S GOING ON?!
THUD
THUD
?
HMM ?
THE GUARDS IN FRONT FAINTED FOR SOME REASON
This... This is...

BLOW-DARTS!
AAAA

BANDITS AGAIN?!
HIIEEE...
DON'T MOVE!
ANYONE WHO MOVES WILL DIE TO THE DARTS!
BENKE!!
YES!

※ Also known as *monkshood, aconite* or *wolfsbane*. It was often used to lace arrows in ancient China

*A POTENT NEUROTOXIN IT CAUSES NUMBNESS PARALYSIS AND DEATH IN LARGE ENOUGH DOSES

OF COURSE, THEIR ARROWS ARE LACED WITH TORIKABUTO POISON AS WELL
OUR SUBORDINATES HAVE YOU IN THEIR SIGHTS

SHIT! WHAT SHOULD I DO?
This is bad! with so many archers above us
there will certainly be many casualties!

CHK

HAYATE-SAMA IS THINKING OF THE VILLAGE, HE MUST HAVE HIS REASONS!
IDIOT! DON'T SPOUT NON-SENSE!
DOESN'T HE CARE ABOUT HIS OWN SISTER?

AND THEN WE DIDN'T EVEN ATTACK FIRST...
I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY HAYATE-SAMA WAS SO AGAINST IT

STANDING ALONGSIDE THOSE PEOPLE MAKES ME ILL...
BUT IF THIS CONTINUES, MISAKI MIGHT REALLY...

READY!
Uh
THE TARGET IS...
THOSE MEN!!

EH?
A-Aren't you pointing
at the Soryuu?
THAT'S RIGHT.

SHANA OH AND HIS COMPANIONS FOUGHT FIERCELY...
AND THE SORYUU BROTHERS AND THEIR FOLLOWERS PERISHED IN COMBAT!
!!!

TAKE AIM!
THE TARGET IS THE SORYUU CLAN!
RIGHT! IF THEY'RE ALL DEAD, NOBODY CAN SAY WE KILLED THEM!
MISAKI WON'T BE TAKEN AWAY, NOR WOULD WE HAVE TO PAY!

WE SHOULD GET STARTED, BROTHER
RIGHT.
HUH ?

IS THEIR AIM SO TERRIBLE?
THEY SHALL BE PUNISHED LATER!
W-WHAT?
WHY ARE THEY AIMING HERE?!

THEY'VE BETRAYED US...
BAS-TARDS.
W-WHAT IS GOING ON?
ズズズ
Internal discord?
THERE IS INTERNAL DISCORD.

!!
WE'RE JUST SITTING DUCKS IF WE STAY HERE!
WE'RE THE ONLY ONES LEFT ALIVE!
BROTHER, WE SHOULD HIDE!

Now I will take vengeance upon the Soryuu clan for generations of hardship and bitterness
Father Grandfather for water, our people were forced to become slaves

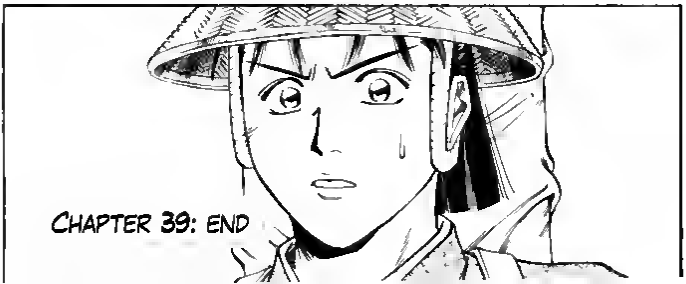
I WILL TAKE BACK OUR WATER!
WITH MY OWN HANDS.

Hayate...

ﾅﾒﾛ

YOU PURPOSELY LEFT US ALIVE,
BECAUSE YOU WANT TO SETTLE WITH US PERSONALLY...
YOU REALLY THINK THE IWAGOU CLAN CAN DEFEAT THE SORYUU?
THIS ANCESTRAL SWORD, PASSED DOWN FOR GENERATIONS,
IS ALREADY COATED WITH YOUR FAVORITE TORIKABUTO POISON.

I WILL CLEAR THE GRIEVANCES OF THE IWAGOU CLAN...
WITH THIS BLADE!


CHAPTER 39: END

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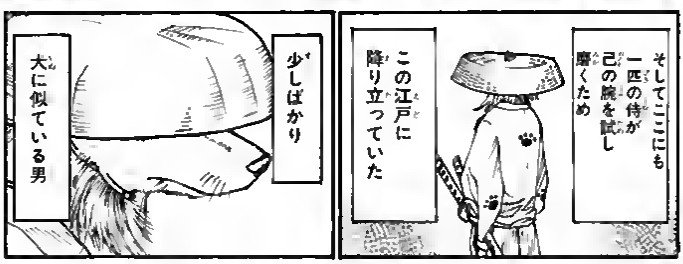
貞享四年
世に浪人が溢れ
仕官を願う侍達が
剣で名を上げようと
武者修業に
赴いていた


そしてここにも
一匹の侍が
己の腕を試し
磨くため
この江戸に
降り立っていた
少しばかり
大に似ている男

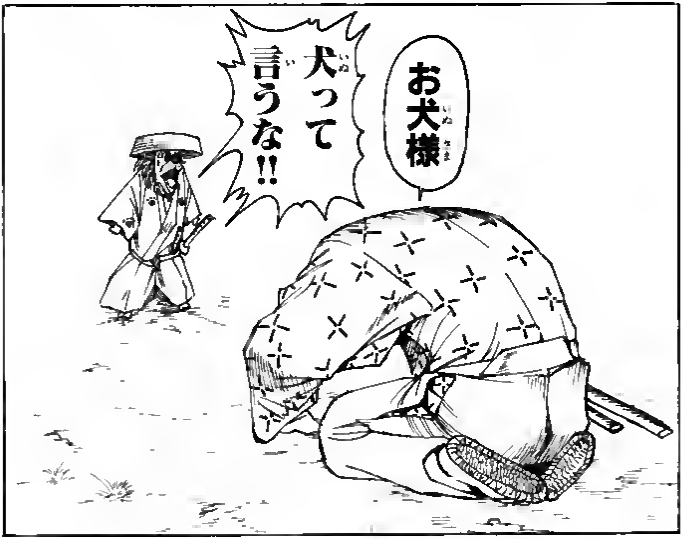
その名も
胴長駄久助
痛快侠客お遊び漫画
いぬ侍
第一話 犬似の男

お侍様
落とされましたよ
おおこれはいつの間に
確かに拙者の物しゃかたじけない
いえいえどうかお気を付けくださいまし
大切な兵糧を落とすとは不覚悟な…江戸にうかれ気を乱していたか
きゃあああ…

ぶつかっておいて
詫びだけとは
無礼な
もっと別の
償い方が
あるであろうに
ふふふ…
ご…
ごむたいな!!
!!
待たれい!!
その方二本差しながら
無頼な行い
その娘を放さずば
拙者がお相手いたす
事になろうぞ
お侍様
てめえ
俺に
喧嘩…
ヒクッ
うっ
あ…
あなたは!!

こやつ一目見て描者の腕前を見抜いたか
とすると
こやつもなかなかの腕
相手に不足なし！
いつでも良い抜かれい!!
うっ
くっ…
で…
できん…
俺には抜けぬ…
刻は
江戸時代
五代将軍の世
その将軍が
天下に出していた
おふれ
……それは
ガッ

生類憐れみの令


お犬様！
犬って
言うな!!

少しばかり犬に似ている
駄久助には
修業しづらい時代であった
しかし
後に天下に名を轟かせ
将軍家指南役まで
登りつめる剣豪になろうとは
この時誰も想像できなかった

つづく

あとがき

さて、ついに二桁になり10巻です。それを記念して(?)表紙のデザインを微妙にバレない程度にマイナーチェンジしました。もし気付いた人がいたら、内緒にしておいて下さい。(笑)

この巻からようやく弁慶が家臣になり、平泉への旅が始まりました。一緒にこの旅をするキャラ達は、平泉へ着いてもちょくちょく顔を出す仲間です。その中の蛇吉は、編集様に「あれ？　何で五助がいるんだ!?」と言われるほど、牛若達をかくまった五助に似ているらしいのですが、五助ではありませんので御注意下さい。(そんなに似てるかな？目が離れてるからかな？)

あと、私の悪い人のイメージというのが、どうも、おっぱいをもんでる感じが強いらしく、破矢下の回の蘇龍兄がそうだし、清盛も常盤を、「山賊王」でも高時がそうしていました。私のイメージの貧困さもお楽しみ下さい。(笑)

今回は、おまけページに前巻で予告していた「いぬ侍」を描いてみました。「中村や福島の絵が見たかったのに、こんな下らない物載せやがって!!」とお怒りの方もいらっしゃるでしょうが、そこはひとつ大きな心で許してやって下さい。「お遊びマンガ」として気に入ってもらえると嬉しいのですが‥‥。

2004.4.21　沢田ひろふみ

講談社コミックス　KCGM934

遮那王　義経⑩

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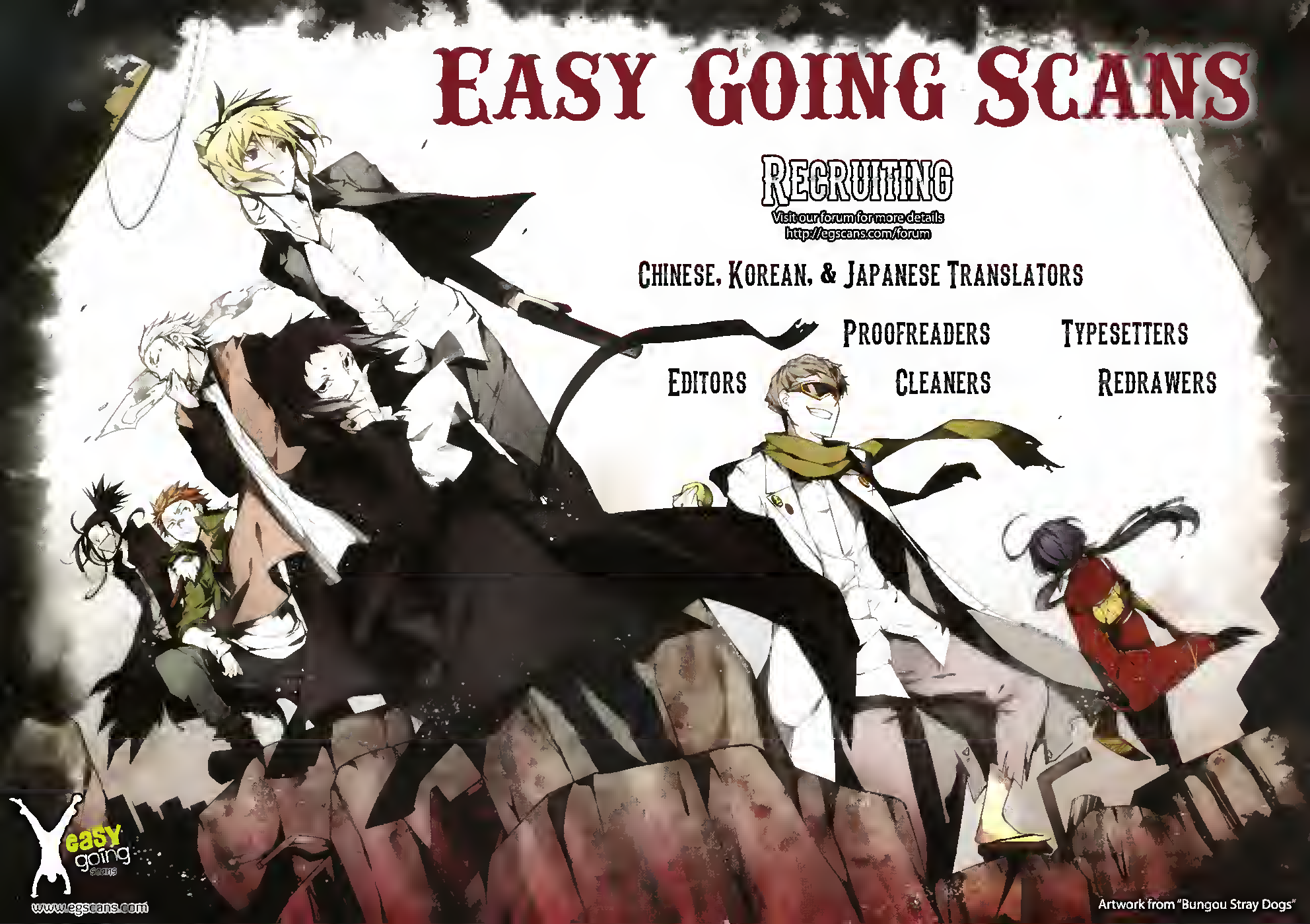
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